



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>

4. Θ.

142.

THE HORSE:

BEING A

COLLECTION OF WEEKLY PAPERS JUST COM-
PLETED ON THAT NOBLE ANIMAL,

AND WHICH THE PUBLIC PRESS HAVE UNIVERSALLY RECOMMENDED

AS A WORK WHICH

NO HORSE PURCHASER,
NO HORSE PROPRIETOR,
NO VETERINARY SURGEON,
NO HORSE DEALER,

NOR ANY PERSON IN ANY WAY CONNECTED WITH THE
WELFARE OF THAT MOST USEFUL ANIMAL, SHOULD BE
WITHOUT.



LONDON :

PUBLISHED BY J. HAMLET & CO.,

12, WELLINGTON STREET, STRAND.

1834.

W. TYLER, 4, IVY-LANE, ST. PAUL'S.

I N D E X.

A	Page	D	Page
Appearances of Teeth Deceptive	59, 293	Dealers, Tricks of	6
Arabian, The Darley	81	Danger of Powerful Doses	75
Action, Grand	98	Dealers, Screw	88, 162, 193
A Horse of two sizes	113	Dealers, Generally	91, 116
A perfect Leaper	195	Dealers, Respectable	92
A Patent Bit	250	Driving	172, 257
		Do. Whips	268
B			
Bad Horsemen, On	9	Effects of Timidity	6
Bridling Bits, &c.	24	Economy	43
Bridles	44	Eyes and Shying	107
Buying Horses, On	53	Equipages generally	138
Bishoping	58	Effects of Treatment	143
Buying at Fairs	101	Errors of Food and Grooming	150
Biter Bit	109	Eclipse	241
Buying Horses, and Dealers....	132		
Breaking Horses, for Harness..	185	F	
Bits, How are chosen	268	Food and Work	21, 33, 274
Bit, Lord Hemiker's.....	270	Fathering Horses	51
Blind Bard, Not the	286	Fine Coats	68
		Fairs, Buying at	107
C			
Cause of accidents attributed to Horses	8	Flying Childers	177
Cleaning Horses, On	11, 289	Figging, &c.	189
Crib-biting, To prevent	14	Ford's Patent Bit	293
Comparative Strength	37		
Clothing	45	G	
Commission Stable	50	General Observations	1
Chaunter, The	56, 114	Glanders	18
Chaupting, Plan to Suppress ..	115	Groom, The good/	41
Clever Blacksmith	78	Going to be Shod	45
Chauters' Alarm	158	Guinea-man, The	55
Cab Driving	179	Geldings and Mares	62
Cook's Patent Safety Rein....	245	Gentlemen's selling Studs	108
Change of Feeling towards Horses	290		
Correspondents, Answers to 14, 32, 48, 64, 80, 96, 112, 128, 144, 160, 176, 192, 208, 224, 256, 272, 288, 304		H	
		Horses, Vicious	5
		Horses Kicking, On	6
		Horses, Purchase of	6
		Horses, Cause of Accidents attributed to	8
		Horsemen, Bad	9, 25
		Horses, On cleaning	11
		Horses, Clipping	21

INDEX.

	Page		Page
Horse, Where and how to Sell a	30, 49	Riders, On Nervous	9
Hackney, The	35	Repository, The	52, 163, 199
How to buy Oats, Hay, Beans, &c., &c.	39.	Ring, In the	53
Headstalls	45, 271	Romford Soundness	77
Hot Feet	286	Runaway Horses	253, 257
Henikers, Lord	270	Reins, Bearing	281
Halters	271	Roarers	285
I			
Is there Honour among Thieves	162	Stable Treatment, On	4, 28
Infallible Safety Bridle, or Life Preserver	251	Shying, To prevent Horses	10
K			
Knowing One, The Nurse and the	89	Stable, The	17
Knowing Horsemen	121	Saddlers and Saddles	25, 235, 239
Knowledge, Useful	124, 129	243, 270	
L			
Livery, Standing at	38	Standing at Livery	38
Lord Ongleby's Coventry	98	Stable Management	42, 196
Livery Servants, Dealers, &c.	146, 167	Saddle Galls	44
Law, The, to Magistrates	159	Stopping for the Feet	46
M			
Management, Stable	42	Screws	77
Man, The Guinea	55	Screw Dealers	88
Mares and Geldings	62	Sweetners	84
Making a Lame Horse Sound	90	Safety Carriages	188
Marked Horses	134	String Snaffle	298
Mane, The	273	Segundo Bit	300
Martingales	294	Saddles	270
Mouths, Hard	295	T	
N			
Nervous Riders, On	9	Timidity, Effects of	6
O			
Observations, General	1	Treatment, Effects of	8, 143
On Stable Treatment	4	Trying Horses	168
Oats, How to Buy	39	The Brighton Plan	253
Ostlers	280	U	
P			
Purchase of Horses	6	Vicious Horses	5
Physic	74	Useful Knowledge	124, 129
Prejudices affecting Prices	135	Used Horses	154
Proving Horses' Ages	156	Veterinary Opinions	202, 266
Patent Bits	250, 267	Van Butchell, Martin	253
W			
Work, Food, &c.	21, 33		
Water	37, 78		
Waste, On	42		
Warranting, On	54		
Working Young	60		
Where to Buy a Horse	65		
Why Hunters are bad Roadsters	142		
Watering	151		
Windgalls	226		
Y			
Young, Working	60		
Young, Ground	103		

THE HORSE.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

THE horse, it must be admitted, is, of all the quadrupeds, that in which man takes most delight, and on which he has ever felt most pleasure in dilating. From the very earliest records, he has been a theme for the philosopher, the painter, and the poet; even the peer has not thought him beneath his notice. To one of the most costly and elaborate works upon his management an earl has felt proud to have his name affixed as the author. Nearly every year, since the art of printing was discovered, has brought forth its volumes upon horses. So much so, that we should have thought the subject must, long ere this, be worn thread-bare, had not experience proved, that, numerous as the books on horses are, there is not one adapted to the general use of horse proprietors; and that, to be tolerably versed in horsemanship, he must not only wade through them all, but must also be sufficiently acquainted with his subject to extract the useful from a great deal of error, and superstition, and gloss, which has been thrown upon it by travellers, whose privilege we have no occasion to remind our readers of; also the exaggeration of the eastern nations, from whence we very early began to import horses, and who, of course, to sell them, would give them a little oriental tinting. All those who really wish to be horsemen must lay all varnished accounts aside, and only attend to the bold and bare truth; and this they will find hidden in so many different ways, that they must no more be afraid of sifting deformity to the bottom, than too easily led by a flowery or a beaten path; the one as frequently leads to error as the other. To ascertain all this from the present works, would require you, not only to possess nearly every book that has hitherto been published on the subject, but time also to make it your complete study.

The object, then, of this work is to assist every man in some branch of horse knowledge, where he is deficient, and teach those who are totally ignorant, in the easiest and most expeditious way, to be as knowing (using a jockey phrase) as their neighbours; that they shall be adepts, not only in the necessary treatment which their horses re-

No. 1.

quire, when on a journey, hunting, racing, coach and hackney work, in the team, or in any other way in which that animal may be rendered useful, but also when at rest. *How to purchase on their own judgment.* *When to call in the veterinary surgeon;* but, what is more important, treating the horse as hereafter shown will, by keeping him in the *most perfect health*, render the presence of a professional man far less necessary.

It is well known to veterinarians that the horse is a very healthy animal, that his diseases are few and simple, and those principally acquired by the improper treatment they receive, both at work and in the stable, the latter frequently proving the most injurious of the two.

Neither is he the short lived-animal commonly supposed, or so soon worn out and rendered useless. His short life, and even a considerable portion of that crippled, is brought on, not from use, but our barbarity; *it is the abuse, and not the use,* of that noble, generous animal, the companion of our toil, and greatly the administrator to our comforts and our pleasure, which not only abridges his life to a much shorter term than nature gave him, but renders the greater portion of that niggard life a burthen. To embrace all the objects of this work would occupy more space than our confined limits will admit; and we fear the first few numbers will only be portions of some of the subjects which we shall have to finish at subsequent periods; and from the materials which we have in store, we feel confident we shall not disappoint our readers, when we assert, every person who keeps a horse, either for work or pleasure, will gain such useful information by the perusal of our pages, as to agree with us that no horse proprietor ought to be without it.

We did intend to commence the work without further comment, but from some question just propounded, and observations frequently made, we cannot help observing that the cloud of ignorance, which obscures the stable management and treatment of the horse generally, has been, by horse masters, a never-failing source of regret. Every man that has had the care of horses, presumes upon his length of service in that department, and they seem by mutual consent to give way to one another, according to their length of service. However stupid or ignorant the man who has served the longest may be, by all his juniors he is looked up to as an oracle; except where two happen to meet, who have been so fortunate as to possess old receipts, which have been used by their forefathers with, of course, unparalleled success, probably with reputation almost as absurd as that of bringing horses to life

again. Such valuable documents are carefully preserved, and only revealed when the party, being the lucky possessor, ceases to be able to use them, from accident or that leveller death, for even these cunning worthies yield to him; neither is the implicit faith with which a young stableman looks up to his senior to be wondered at, while we see men of superior education consult them as oracles on all occasions, and where even their credulity is put too much to the stretch, they are brought back to implicit faith by the observation, "Do you think I who have been brought up amongst horses all my life, &c. &c." And it is not an uncommon thing, to find even where a veterinary surgeon of known experience (which they very justly complain of) has been attending a sick horse for this very observation, to induce the owner at once to alter the treatment from that which the practitioner has adopted. Every person, on meeting with observations of a similar kind, would do well to recollect that a man need not be a horse because he was born in a stable; could any person for one instant imagine, a porter, from cleansing a complicated machine, must of necessity understand all its peculiarities and power, better than the engineer? if so, how are these men from merely dressing the skin of a much more complicated thing, the animal machine, (a horse,) and one whose springs and levers are concealed from the sight of all but the anatomist, to gain their superior knowledge? as well might a man from dusting the case of a clock, without ever seeing its works, pretend to more knowledge than the maker. Is it not then full time that more light was thrown into the stable, and that horse knowledge was put on a more equitable footing, that the master may know when his horse is properly attended, and that the groom may know how to do his duty as it ought to be done? to save the master having to keep so close a watch upon the stable, a duty, where a good groom is not kept, for which few masters have the time or inclination, independent of which, every man fit to be a groom, from knowing his duty, will feel pleasure in attending to his horses, were it only that he will find it far less trouble, and the condition they will get into will make him feel proud of their improvement. We have much to do among the ancients (for they pride themselves on the number of years they have been in the stables, and scrupulously adhering to old customs,) but we trust the time is come when all of more recent date are prepared, without prejudice, to try at least whatever alterations may appear reasonable, and we hope there will not be a stable, however high or low, without his work. As a book of reference it will be invaluable; it is intended that every thing shall be

clear and plain, to suit the meanest capacity, and thus drive mystification, ignorance, and barbarity from its strong hold in the stable. That noble, generous animal, the horse, may be relieved from many of his persecutions through mistake, and thus be rendered more free from accident and disease; thus allowing him, not only to do his work longer without pain, but lengthen his valuable life and services together.

ON STABLE TREATMENT.

That your groom is good-tempered and fond of horses ought to be your first care, all good stable management depending upon these two essentials; for if he is kindly disposed, you may rely on his honestly attending to the horses placed in his charge, and that he would rather rob himself than them, nor in any other way will they be neglected. On his being good-tempered more depends than is generally imagined, more horses being ruined, and keeping low in flesh, from this than any other cause; and whenever a horse is poor, and no proper cause can be assigned, then keep a vigilant eye upon the stable. We do not mean to infer that the groom is not honest on this account; but to ascertain the hidden cause of the horses not thriving, to notice how he treats his horses. This may soon be ascertained by the way the horse lets the groom approach him in the stall. If the poor beast seems afraid, rely on it he is ill used, and his being always on the fret is the cause of his thinness; change him to a good-tempered groom, and you will soon see an improvement.

As much injury is frequently done to horses in the stable (and perhaps more) than when at proper work, though the latter is always blamed for it. Many of the lamenesses to which the horse is subject arise from stable ill-usage; the horse is made to jump up suddenly or forward in his stall; this, by a slip, or some other accident, strains a muscle, but the lameness is immediately attributed to his last day's work. The same, when they receive a kick or blow, on the legs particularly; if it has only been violent enough to cause so slight an inflammation, that it requires exercise to increase it sufficiently to cause the horse to go lame, then it is decided immediately he must have got a kick out of doors, or met with some other accident; and however miraculously it may seem to have been to the rider, as he cannot recollect any one circumstance likely to have caused the complaint, yet he is obliged (as the horse went sound when he started) to believe it

happened with him, unless the horse has been lately shod, and then the poor innocent shoer, it is decided on all hands, is to blame, particularly if the shoe is taken off, and after a day or two given the horse to rest, he gets sound.

Having a groom you can trust, (any other is worse than useless,) as before observed, you may rely upon the horses under his charge being well fed, kindly treated, and in every other way taken care of; we always having found a good groom to be invaluable in every respect, and a great comfort and saving. With such a one there is no necessity for everlastingly being in the stable; he prides himself in the good looks and cleanliness of his horses, and every thing about him; in short, he is fond of doing his duty; for the master to look in and express his satisfaction and show some fondness to the horses pleases him; he feels proud in having given satisfaction, and that, and the good looks of his companions, are his reward. But the master should only show that he does look into the stable from a love of its inhabitants, not prying suspiciously about, as if he thought he had rogues to deal with. This breaks the proud spirit of such a servant, and they (not only) immediately say, (but too often put it in practice,) I may as well be a rogue as thought one. The rogue, the drunken, lazy, good-for-nothing fellow, is worse than useless; looking after him is a waste of time, and, after all, he is more than a match for you, do what you will—the sooner you get rid of such a stable pest the better; even at less wages, they cost you more beyond all calculation than a good servant, and every thing is neglected and goes to rack and ruin under their management.

VICIOUS HORSES.

Buffon said he could tell the disposition of a family if he only saw their dog; with horses this is most assuredly the case, so far as their keepers are concerned: were there no brutal bipeds there would be no ill-tempered horses, they always being, when properly used, noble, generous quadrupeds, and generally speaking, (if not in every instance,) the most vicious horses are to be reclaimed. We, from having purchased horses reckoned extremely dangerous from their being considered spiteful and vicious, beyond all hopes of cure, on purpose to put the above theory to the test, can affirm, we never yet found a naturally spiteful or vicious horse, nay, more, never an ill-tempered one; and even where vice by mismanagement had become habitual to the horse,

we have always found them, by proper management, eagerly return to tractability, and with proper treatment ever after remain so.

A few Remarks on Horses Kicking, approaching them in their Stall, and the Effects of Timidity.

Never approach a horse either too quick, or as if you were afraid. This is the way horses learn to kick, it being their natural way of defending themselves when alarmed from behind. If approached too suddenly, they throw out their heels, from apprehending some mischief; and to avert the threatened evil, or defend themselves only, it is they kick ; they prefer being noticed where properly used. They are also alarmed when they see any one approach timidly, and on the least motion cringe in their stall ; this adds to the fright of the party, he makes some other quick movement, and the horse kicks. Then this poor animal is the echo (if I may use the phrase) of our own feelings, he is pronounced vicious, and punished. This only makes the poor brute worse, and he thinks of the thrashing every time he is approached. All our lives have we always been amongst strange horses, independent of attending the various repositories in London and country fairs, besides having, in some years, upwards of thirty colts to break, and yet never met with but one kick, and that a slight and accidental one, neither have we ever had any vicious horse, unless it was so prior to coming into our hands ; and of which, in every variety, we have had our share, but they have never remained so with us.

PURCHASE OF HORSES, TRICKS OF DEALERS, &c.

To buy a horse and be taken in, is generally considered by the un-initiated in these matters as synonymous terms. That rougery is practised to a very great extent, no one will pretend to deny ; nevertheless, most persons have in a great degree only themselves to blame. There are very few horse masters who really know any thing about the animal, beyond the form which meets their approbation, yet almost every one, particularly if he has ever been possessed of even one horse, considers himself a judge. It is no enviable task to take up the horse dealer's cause, but it is necessary, as it is the intention of this work to make every one fully master of the horse under every circumstance, that every minute particular should be thoroughly understood, so as to place him on a level with the greatest adepts, (it may be here remarked,

that good judges prefer buying of dealers rather than gentlemen.) We must, however, admit that the greater proportion of dealers would rather commit themselves by an act approaching to robbery, even though they were losers by the same, than be truly honest ; they imagine they have not proved their superior sagacity, upon which they much pride themselves, unless they happen to have taken in their customer. There are others again who compel them to act unfairly, by their eagerness and credulity in expecting to obtain horses possessing both beauty and accomplishment, for little or nothing. Though by far the greater number pursue this course, yet there are a few who are exceedingly fair and honest in their dealings, many instances of which shall be given at some future period ; but it is so much the fashion in these days to condemn them, that the circumstance of even keeping their horses in the condition they are obliged to do, termed by them the bloom, (we say obliged, as a dealer can hardly sell a poor beast out of condition, as every one considers it diseased,) is called an unfair act, so also is that of following them with a whip, though it may be necessary to show them even properly ; why then should the horse dealer be denounced as every thing that is mean and vile, when he merely takes the liberty other tradesmen do, that of showing his goods to the best advantage ? To show the absurdity of expecting to obtain first-rate horses for small sums, we need only observe, that the cost of a colt to the breeder is not less than ten pounds per annum ; and in the London market, where horses are not generally liked until five years of age, prior to their being considered too young for work, makes his cost alone fifty pounds, (supposing he should have been possessed of him that period,) independent of casualties, such as accidents and diseases, to both of which young horses are extremely liable, expense incurred by brood mares, &c. &c. ; all these circumstances being taken into consideration, *it is surprising, not that superior horses fetch the prices they do, but that it is worth while to breed at all.* In addition to these reasons, there are others why the uninitiated are taken in ; these men go into a dealer's yard, with a consequence proportionate to the value they set upon their presumed knowledge ; this class of customers the dealers prefer, as no responsibility rests with them, they allow the man to deceive himself. If, on the contrary, a person goes to a respectable man, stating his ignorance, with a description of the sort of animal he requires, having previously determined to give a fair remunerating price, *which after all he must do to obtain a good article,* I am convinced he will find him act as fairly and conscientiously as any other tradesman,

the whole responsibility in this case resting with him. There is also another class of would-be judges, whom we cannot pass over without mention ; these latter have fixed the standard of perfection, and any horse below that being absolutely worthless, in their estimation, while any thing beyond, they consider what is termed a fair value. Some fix this standard so low as even thirty or forty guineas, and expect to obtain the highest qualifications for so small a sum ; as we have already stated elsewhere the expense attending breeding, &c., it is needless to point out the absurdity of such expectations, and also the general want of horse knowledge in persons entertaining such opinions. We can only attribute their having obtained such notions from being acquainted with men who are really judges, but who cannot afford to purchase the highest priced horses at first hand, (*i. e.* fresh from the first-rate dealers,) and therefore content themselves with what is called by the one class *used horses*, and *good screws* by the other. That there are some both sound and useful to be procured for small sums we do not deny, but they have usually bad action or are unsightly animals. We shall return to this subject shortly.

CAUSE OF ACCIDENTS ATTRIBUTED TO HORSES.

We make use of the term attributed, contending that the horse is blameless, being equally so, whether it occurs through the want of education either in himself or master, for no person having the requisite knowledge of the animal will be fool-hardy enough to attempt more with him than the instruction that horse has received will warrant him in. The number of accidents which are continually occurring, are, to the uninitiated in horse matters, a source of wonder, to all, of regret. To those, however, who really understand the horse and his management, the surprise is not that so many accidents occur, but that there are so few, considering the small proportion of those who are acquainted with that useful animal. The number of those who ride and drive, who really understand what they are about, is exceedingly small, far below what is generally imagined ; yet every man who can retain his seat on the back of a horse, even in his quietest mood, has the presumption to imagine himself a horseman, and in like manner, they who can manage to drive round a corner without injury to themselves or vehicle, are styled whips : such horsemen as these will scarcely credit that a person who can sit a restive horse may be far from a finished horseman ; many there are, also, who pride themselves on driving to half an inch,

that are just as far from being good coachmen; either the one or the other may be contrived without much knowledge of horsemanship. These parties are daily trespassing on the good nature of those who are capable of effecting, by superior skill, that which they intend: were it not for these latter constantly giving way, accidents would be of much more frequent occurrence. When, however, two persons come in contact, neither having the least pretension to be a coachman, we are not surprised when we hear a serious accident has been the result. We feel the more confident in stating that these accidents do seldom occur to any but the ignorant, from the fact of never having met with an individual really conversant with the horse, who has met with any serious accident. We ourselves, taking credit for having some knowledge of that animal, have for many years past been frequently in the habit of driving horses, (the first time perhaps of their ever having been in harness,) not only in the streets of London, but on the most crowded race-courses, and have never been so unfortunate as to have met with damage to self, horse, or vehicle. We have witnessed many though, but always invariably arising from apparent stupidity or ignorance on the part of the performers.

Remarks on Bad Horsemen. Nervous Riders. Spoiling Horses. Teaching them to Shy. How taught. On Good Sight and Bad Sight.

Horses take their feelings, or as it is termed their courage, or the want of it, in a great measure from those who are about them. This will account for nervous people and bad horsemen frequently spoiling their horses and making them shy. To illustrate this, we must imagine a nervous or bad horseman riding a horse he is afraid of. He sees something he fancies the horse will be alarmed at, and anticipating the apprehension of the horse with the chance of being thrown, his agitation makes him shake with a nervous tremour his hands among the rest, through the aid of the bridle, communicating his fear to the most sensitive part of the horse to the touch, his mouth: as they approach the object, the vibratory motion increases; the rein is tightened more and more; the horse is annoyed at the pain, and immediately directs all his energies to ascertain the cause. The rider perceives what he fancies the horse's alarm increase as they approach the object of imaginary fear, though it is only the torture of mismanagement he is showing a dislike to; and by the time they have reached what the rider has

fixed upon for the subject for dreading, he makes one desperate effort to hold the horse from capering, and himself on at the same time, by the bridle. The pain is greater than the generous steed can bear. He jumps—they have passed the object. The reins are relaxed, and he is quiet. But his now being loose in this quiescent state is not attributed to the right cause, the *loosened rein*, but *having passed the objects*, and he is pronounced a shying horse; and the same treatment made rougher by the barbarous use of whip and spur, is thought necessary on meeting the same object again and again, till the poor horse learns to look on it as the cause of punishment and really does shy, turning short round and jumping any where he can rather than meet it. The above, of course, applies to such horses as have good sight.

If the sight is bad, the horse will shy in proportion to the injury his eyes have received; he, therefore, cannot be cured of the habit without doing away with the imperfection of his vision. In this case, the above ill-treatment is a double humanity and greater absurdity.

To Prevent Horses Shying, as well as how to Cure them of this disagreeable and dangerous Vice.

The cure for shying horses where the eyes are good, and it is only a habit taught the horse by bad treatment, as well as the best remedy to prevent those with bad eyes from being so much and so often alarmed, as well as so severe in their action when they do shy, is, when you find them preparing to get out of the way of any thing, to give them a loose rein, that is, either feel their mouths more lightly or not at all, as circumstances require, and place your leg on the side the horse will shy to, in position to passage the horse up to the object, but this must not be done violently, the degree of pressure given to that leg must depend on the room you have, the situation, &c., when you will find, instead of jumping from one side of the road to the other out of a supposed frequently into a real danger, turning short round often against whatever may be nearest them, and other tricks equally dangerous to the rider, the horse will go quietly to the other side of the road (not starting) but gently; and by degrees will get so familiar with the object, and feel so confident he can escape if he imagines it necessary, that after a short time he will have confidence sufficient to pass that which appeared so dreadfully alarming, with the confidence of other horses.

ON CLEANING HORSES.

To the practical groom we observe, they generally too completely fulfil soldiers' orders—to act, not think—therefore, they stick like an automaton to the plan on which they were first set going; and in every stable, and upon every horse coming under their care, the same plan and treatment are adhered to. Masters also labour under a similar error, and are too apt to imagine, because they have had, or still have, what they call a particularly good groom, that is, keeps his horses fat and looking well, that his plan of treatment must be right, even though some or all of the horses under his management become

VICIOUS,

and argues it must be dormant vice again broke loose, and that the horses must have been, by the last owner, temporarily subdued for the purpose of sale, as a kinder and more regular man in his stable cannot be. Little does he or the groom suspect the cleaning is the sole cause, and that in

MISMANAGEMENT

alone lies all the mischief. To clean a horse properly requires consideration, first, as to the irritability of the horse, secondly, the thickness or thinness of his covering—here we mean the skin as well as the coat;—next we must consider the tools; here the groom will begin to enumerate, as absolutely necessary, a horse-brush, curry-comb, water-brush, picker, &c. Now in many stables, all but the picker and water-brush may be advantageously dispensed with: this we know is contrary to

GENERAL CUSTOM,

we will therefore proceed to give such causes, as any reasonable man will at once see feasible, and which will save the groom some

DANGER AND MUCH TROUBLE.

But first, we will begin by whisping the horse to get him dry, or the wet mud or dirt off him, this should always be done with a hay-band partly untwisted, and any thistles or other hard and prickly substance

carefully taken out; unless this is done, you may almost as well use straw, too constant a practice to get the rough mud off, even where the hay-band is preferred afterwards; and where the hay-whisp is preferred, it is because it sooner dries the horse, and not from the humane cause, that it is less annoying to the animal. You will frequently see a stupid fellow jogging a straw-whisp, with long stiff sharp ends sticking out, like a *cheveaux de frieze*, against the thin skin and tender parts about the hind legs; the poor brute showing evidently he is much annoyed and hurt whenever these points come in contact with him, for which he gets many kicks and hearty curses, till these sharp annoyances being broken smoothly down, the animal becomes quiet, when the sagacious groom attributes this to his

SUPERIOR MANAGEMENT;

and probably brags over his pot of heavy, of his great skill in "whacking" horses into obedience. The brush too roughly used is also likely to make horses troublesome, and while on some skins it can hardly be too fine, if used at all, on others, even the brush which went under the name of Metcalf's patent is not too severe, but a great saving of labour, and here we will recommend that it is not used between the hind legs, or any other tender part: but the moment the

HORSE SHEWS UNEASINESS,

lay down the brush—"What! leave my horse dirty between the legs?" No! not even though you leave him dirty every where else, let between the fore and hind legs have your particular attention. These places chafe in travelling, and are exceedingly sore and troublesome to the animal. Where only the thin-skinned and thin-coated horses are kept and well clothed, we would not allow a single brush in the stable, for even when the hair of the brush is soft enough, they have hard wooden backs, and these knocking against certain places, such as the elbows, sheath, the jaws, and other prominent places, cause much unnecessary pain, and make the horse dread being cleaned. At first he only turns his head and shows his teeth, then raises his foot at the brush; the groom, on seeing either the one movement or the other, leaves off his persecution to bawl and kick at the horse; the horse

finds he is relieved from the brush as the groom retreats, and reasons properly that the groom causes the punishment, and, at first, either tries to move him with his teeth or feet. The groom fancies this is done from vice, and punishes with the most brutal violence.

A HORSE NEVER FORGETS

any thing, particularly unkindness; and a quarrel being now begun, he is at last, from repeated punishments, both with cleaning and thumping, till he considers every one who approaches comes to torment him, and prepares to resist accordingly, and becomes what is usually termed vicious in the stable, from merely acting on the defensive, and making use of such means as nature gave him for the purpose. With thin-skinned and thin-coated horses we would recommend the use of only soft hay-whisps, and coarse linen rubbers. Sponge well the nose, up the nostrils, the lips, between the elbows and chest, the sheath, under the tail, along the dock, inside of the thighs, where there is little hair, in the hollow of the fetlock, and the hoofs, inside and out, not only night and morning, but the moment the horse comes in. If hot, with warm water; but the sponge need not be very wet for any other part than the hoofs, and these cannot be kept too wet, except in particular instances hereafter to be mentioned when treating on that subject. Where no water brush is kept, comb the mane and tail, then damp with a moderately wet cloth; this following, the comb being brought over the whole length of mane at once, or nearly so, and then followed by a dry one in the same way, will make the mane much better than all the water brushes in the world. But why object to water brushes for the legs? They have hard backs, and these backs are too often used to make the horses lift their legs when the groom is too idle or ignorant to do it properly. They are also used to give the leg a thump, if the groom from clumsiness or carelessness splashes himself; in fact, the groom is never wrong, the horse it is who always errs. Even if the groom's dinner is spoilt from his master's having been out an unusual hour, the poor horse is wrong. The unaccommodating mud will not come off quicker than usual, and therefore the horse's legs, be they put how they may, are always in the wrong position, and he receives thumps accordingly, and the brush being the hardest and handiest thing, is made the instrument of punishment. Now the groom, under these circumstances, only having a sponge in his hand, contents himself by scolding, swearing, and grumbling, and perhaps

gives a blow with the sponge, but nothing more. We never yet saw the groom who would go one yard for any instrument to punish a horse, and the sooner any man who would do so is turned out of your stable the better. He is no groom, and not fit to have the care of any animal. Water brushes, through these blows, have frequently been the innocent causes of splints and other lameness.

For the other class of horses we must recur again to this subject, although we think from the foregoing, the owners of such may tell nearly what is required; yet as we do hope we have excited attention to even so minute a subject as a whisp of straw, they will feel some interest in seeing what we have further to say on the subject.

TO PREVENT CRIB-BITING.

In all stables, on each side of the stall at the top should be placed a ring about two feet below the manger; to each of these rings should be a pillar rein; have these reins buckled to the headstall whenever the horse is cleaned, it is more tidy and better than turning his head round, and not only saves trouble, but prevents his dirtying his manger, nor can he in this position get to the wall, or to any other hard substance to hurt his teeth, when tickled by the brush or whisp; for this, see remarks on cleaning horses, page 11. This is also the safest position he can be placed in for the groom.

But there is a better use for the rings than this; all horses, particularly those that do little work, and above all, the young ones, should the moment they have done eating be reined back to these rings, and that too very generally with the mouthing-bit on; do this, and you will prevent many diseases and bad habits, particularly those of cribbiting, weaving, &c., besides being of advantage in many other ways, which will be mentioned when treating on other subjects in this work, where we shall mention them again.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The various letters which we have received since the announcement of this publication, are too numerous as well as not of sufficient interest

to insert, but such of our correspondents as require answering, we shall feel pleasure in giving the best information in our power.

“An Old Veterinary Practitioner” will see from the above, all “letters of interest” will be inserted, with the name and address of the party, unless requested to the contrary. He will also see, from our answers to correspondents, we mean to keep our work as respectable as he can desire. We thank him for his hint, and shall be glad to receive his promised communication.

“Veritas” may rely on it we shall not publish any communication without our knowing it to be the fact. This answer will apply in part to the communication of “Humanitas,” for we certainly shall ascertain the efficacy of every receipt prior to giving it to the public.

“A Young Vet.” will see from our answers to other correspondents, this work is not to be filled with the speculations of projectors, or any thin ; of doubtful authority.

“R. Y.” is informed, marvellous accounts must contain the name and address of the communicant, so as to ascertain their truth or falsity before insertion, though his name need not appear in this work.

“W. A.” cannot defend the action, but must take back the horse, as the “spavins, though small,” existed prior to the sale. No horse is sound with such a defect.

If “H. O.” can prove the mare had a cold prior to his purchasing her, he certainly can return her ; but unless it is very bad, or an old cough, (chronic,) we advise him to keep her.

It is not a matter of course that the horse purchased by “J. R.” must have been unsound when he bought it, because he found him so next morning, even though he “purchased him of a dealer.” His best plan will be, if the horse was warranted, to take him to a veterinary surgeon, when, if it proves to be an old lameness, he can return him.

The letter signed “A Young Horse-keeper,” contained too many queries to be answered at once, the half of them would more than fill one of our numbers; next week, however, we will answer some of them, as we fear his observation is too true, “that a vast number of horse proprietors, from not having any thing to do with them till late in life,

are guilty of extreme cruelty, through their ignorance of the management and the necessary attention required :" as he says, " he thinks these two the most important, first, the quantity of food each horse requires, secondly what quantity of work a horse ought to perform each day," these two, in part, depending upon one another, we shall attend to them in our next. By some parts of the letter we must doubt his being that which he signs himself.

"An Old Sportsman" has done right to employ a veterinary surgeon, but, from his signature, we should have presumed he knew better than to let his groom interfere. For the moment a professional man is called in, neither master nor groom ought to interfere, but to see that the professional orders are implicitly obeyed. The groom having been many years in hunting and racing stables, has not any thing to do with it ; if you think he *knows more* of the *diseases* of horses, or *that particular disease with which your horse is afflicted*, than a veterinary surgeon, consider where and how the groom has acquired his knowledge, and then let either the one or the other have the sole management, and not offer the insult to a regular practitioner whom you have called in, of allowing his commands (for in this light they ought to be considered) to be disobeyed. It is placing him in this unfair situation, if the horse dies (as is most likely, if he is not properly attended to) he unfairly has to bear all the odium of having killed the horse, and if he lives the groom gets all the credit.

We are not fond of promises, yet being young in editorship we think it due to our subscribers to observe, that in beginning any work the author labours under many disadvantages, more particularly in periodicals, the first number being generally an introduction. But we think we may say with confidence, each succeeding number shall outvie this both in interest and importance.

From the large demand there has been for this work (the early numbers being again in the course of reprinting), together with its increasing sale, we flatter ourselves that we have hitherto fulfilled this promise.

THE STABLE.

Let your stable be well ventilated, (they need not be cold) but fresh air is necessary. Clothe your horses as warm as you please, first considering the work they have to do. Respecting the degree of warmth necessary for horses in the stable, we consider there are two errors. One fault is, whatever work may be required of the horses, by one party they are kept too hot, with the other too cold. If your work is fast, and a groom always ready to move the horse about the moment his coat staves while waiting, they may be kept as warm in the stable as the owner chooses; or where they are not kept too long at any time waiting in the cold, they may be kept sufficiently warm to keep their coats fine: here a few beans will assist. But we do not see why stables should be kept as cold as ice-houses. This is the case with many we could name. The good intention of this we cannot divine. We know that when out of doors the horse must be warmer from exercise than if tied in a yard, and that after exercise he can stand some time before he is cold, particularly if ridden or driven fast. This being the case with the fine-coated, warmly-clothed, thin-skinned horse, what effect must it have on a coarse-coated, thick-skinned horse, who stands with perhaps only one cloth (and that not to keep him warm but to keep him clean) in the cold stable above described. The least exertion makes him sweat violently, he is distressed, and hours drying in a nasty cold wet mess, his heels frequently cracking. They never look well, and require much more food to keep them in the same condition than horses which are warmer kept. Their eyes look dull and heavy; their whole aspect is sad. Take these horses and put them on the same treatment and food as the others; they will soon have bright eyes and smiling countenances; work as well, and dry as soon; instead of hardly noticing whip or spur, as before, he will now be gay and cheerful. This is not theoretical; we speak from experience. It is on this principle that we have had several

HORSES CLIPPED,

it being far the quickest mode of getting short coats on them. We then bring them into the more temperate stable, and have found that

No. 2.

those horses which were miserably dull while labouring under such excess of covering, became active sprightly animals. The man with a great coat can stand and move about slowly, while he more lightly clad is glad to quicken his pace to keep himself warm. We bought a cob three years ago out of one of these miserable stables; on the least exercise he was a dreadfully wet, looking almost as bad as if he had been rode through a pond. He was dull, heavy, and spiritless. At last we had him clipped. The groom asked us, when finished, as we were going to use him, to make him sweat. We tried, till we were dreadfully hot ourselves, while he only seemed comfortable. He is one of many; but as we kept this one longer to try experiments before clipping, we lay most stress upon him. Now for the general

OBJECTION TO CLIPPING.

Those who object say it makes the horse's coat worse the following year. We should say the contrary is rather proved by our experience, all those horses which we have had clipped always retaining finer coats every winter after; so much so, that they have never needed clipping the following winters. However, we consider the different stable treatment to be the cause, (artificial covering answering nature's purpose,) and not that the clipping rendered the hair incapable of growing to its original length.

GLANDERS.

Be not horrified; we are not going to enter into the minutiae and controversies respecting this disease, but merely to mention a few facts which ought to be generally known, and to comply with the request of several of our correspondents. From experience we know that this disease is curable while confined to the earlier stages. That tonics alone will effect this. But the best way is never to tamper and quack the horse when any suspicion arises, until so formidable a disease is incurably formed. It comes under various shapes, and follows various diseases, particularly coughs and colds of long stand-

ing. It is generally also an expensive and troublesome disease to eradicate in its advanced stages, in addition to its uncertainty. This disease is likewise dangerous to those who have to attend the animal. The disease is not contagious except by inoculation, and through this means it can be given to any animal, even man himself. The groom, therefore, or whoever has to attend a horse labouring under this disease, should never touch him with his hands, but always wear oilskin gloves, through these the matter cannot penetrate. This is only a proper caution, for although he may imagine his skin is perfectly whole, yet the smallest crack, or even the prick of a pin, is sufficient for the purpose of inoculation. These gloves should also be worn while giving the animal a ball, as from the scratches of the teeth on these occasions many a poor fellow has lost the use of his limb, and sometimes even life itself. The loss of the one or the other is, we believe, unavoidable. This, we should think, would alone be a sufficient reason for not trifling with any disease that bears the slightest resemblance to glanders ; and that the owner, for the sake of the rest of his stud, (setting all humane feeling towards the groom aside,) would send for his veterinary surgeon, and if he (the professional man) thought it wore a suspicious appearance, let him take it away. They are more in the habit of attending horses under this disease ; know their danger, and can better guard against it. After this, we need not tell R. S. that his groom having been head ostler at a large stage coach yard, and having seen a great many horses labouring under this disease, not only may not know anything about curing it, but that he actually does not ; for instead of the horse being too full of humours from high living, and their wanting to be "purged off," is nonsense, as the beginning of this article shews ; and we are happy in being able to attest to the treatment pursued by your *professional man* being right. Besides, in all large coach proprietors' yards the ostler has nothing to do with the sick horses, beyond obeying the veterinary surgeon whom they invariably employ (if they do not keep one altogether).

At the same time we must say we think glanders is made a greater bugbear than it really is. To prove this we will give one instance. A few years back Mr. Cullen, then of the George and Bull, Dartford, had a post horse (a chesnut mare) attacked with farcy and glanders, such it was pronounced by three veterinary surgeons. We mention this to show those who contend that the glanders cannot be cured, that if it is not glanders, there is some other (curable) disease so like

it in appearance as not to be distinguished from it until it is cured, and then they cleverly find out it was not glanders; though in this case it never was disputed, even when cured, to our knowledge. Then let us ask those who say it is not glanders which put on such appearances, what it is? The decision of these veterinarians alarmed Mr. Cullen very much, two other horses showing slight symptoms of the same complaint. He sent to state what he had been told, and requested us as a favour to attend at our earliest convenience, he knowing our fondness to the horse, and that we generally had several of our own experimentalising upon. We went directly, and found him much alarmed at the raw head and bloody bones tales which every one was kind enough to tell him about its "going through his stud; that the first sacrifice was the best; send them all to the hammer, &c. &c." We had the worst put in a cottage in a garden some distance from the yard or any other house. We made use of tonics, blue vitriol, and copperas, (Mr. Sewell's medicine,) for all the three. The farcy buds also of the three we had dressed with the old fashioned black oils of the farriers.

To be more minute would be useless, as we recommend a veterinarian should be immediately sent for; and those who wish to study this disease more particularly are referred to the works of Messrs. Blane and Vines.

We must, however, mention that the two horses slightly affected got well in a very few days, and the worst was at work, we think, in less than three weeks. They were kept at posting a considerable period without ever experiencing any return of that complaint or any other. The history of the worst case was this:—The mare had for some time been looking unthrifty in her coat; this was attributed to an excessive hard day's work, (when they were busy,) but as she continued to eat and work as usual, no further notice was taken of it, until, from business being slack, they began to rest and physic such horses as they thought most needed it—this mare amongst the rest. After her physicing she was again put to work as usual, though observed not to be so well, supposed from the physic's having weakened her, and that she would soon get round. Another day being busy on the road she was set to work, and to this day's work all the mischief was attributed, she being next day in the state described—covered with farcy spots and glanders.

We have entered fully into this case to show the folly, generally speaking, of people physicing their own horses in urgent cases.

Here we see from the common mistake that horses' physic must be always purges, almost ruinous consequences follow. But had a veterinarian been called in at first, instead of oppressing exhausted nature by another depression, he would have given new life and vigour to the constitution by a physic too generally neglected, (though dangerous improperly used,) tonics. To those who are at too great a distance for the veterinarian's aid, whenever there is a running at the nose let it be kept well sponged up the nostrils several times a day, and keep the head poulticed. If added to this the horse has a swelling under the jaws, watch its increase carefully, and give four drams of aloes in a ball. Give three of these balls, allowing just sufficient time between each for the physic to settle, resting the horse during the time. If you find by this treatment the lump under the jaw approaches suppuration, have patience till it is ready for the lancet, then operate: you need not fear glanders here. Keep poulticing, and feeding the horse well with soft food, and he will soon recover. If very weak and poor give tonics. But should the swelling increase slowly, and not appear likely to come to a head, with the running at the nose as before, keep the horse carefully from the rest. Feed well and give tonics.

FOOD AND WORK.

WE will now endeavour to fulfil the promise made last week to our correspondent, signing himself "a young Horsekeeper." The two questions as to the quantity of food horses require, and the work a horse ought to perform being blended together, we must answer under one head. The quantity of work, that is the distance which a horse may go through day after day, depends upon the pace and the weight the horse is made to carry or draw; as well as the quantity and quality of his food, and the description of horse. Thus the cart horse from seldom exceeding a walk, frequently works ten and twelve hours per day, though eight hours is sufficiently long, and no horse constantly remaining without food for a longer period at one time can be kept in good condition. The weight this description of horse

can occasionally draw is enormous. We knew one which drew three and a half tons weight from Barclay and Perkin's brewhouse, over Blackfriar's Bridge, (some years ago before the paving was altered, and when it was much more difficult than it at present is) up Ludgate Hill and the Old Bailey. This horse constantly drew two tons, frequently in situations where three horses were generally employed. Brewers' horses draw little more than three quarters of a ton each besides the dray, and are well fed ; they work from twelve to sixteen hours. The racer if taken, at to him a moderate pace ; compared with the unwieldy dray horse, would be flying, and could travel more than one hundred miles in one day. But urged at his fullest speed, and that too with only a very light weight, one mile would most probably equally tire him ; (it is well known that even a few yards at their utmost speed exhausts them) For this reason, therefore, it is, all his powers are reserved for the last of the race, and he is only seen at his fleetest a few yards from the winning post. Neither could the cart horse be kept to the extent of his powers long. To draw the utmost weight his strength would allow, he would be exhausted in drawing to such excess over a less space of ground than the racer is, at his fulest speed ; neither is this exhaustion temporary, permanent marks remaining for ever after, which shew the horse has been made to exert his powers artificially. But we shall hereafter have to treat of this, having shewn the two extremes of horses with their extremes of work, we will now consider the food, and point out the proper work of the cart horse. Some are of course naturally much stronger, and better able to do more work than others ; and that a weaker, smaller, and worse horse, well fed, is better able to do more than a fine, large, strong horse, ill fed. Horse masters and carmen will find that it is much more profitable, neither to overwork or ill-feed their horses ; and all those who give but little nutritious food will find the smaller horses most profitable ; as they may be kept in condition on what a larger horse will starve ; and a small horse in condition, can evidently do more than a wretched scarecrow, all skin and bone, with hardly muscle enough to keep his skeleton upright, or spirit sufficient to move it along. Yet ! such teams we see every day, a disgrace both to their master and driver, and this too, very often, from mistake alone. The same work that this poor shadow drudges through, might be done quicker and far better by a smaller horse on the same food, and at any rate, if not a credit to those the other disgraced, it would not be a disgusting

object. Taking the average of a properly fed team (i. e. their nutritious food given in quantity proportioned to their size) their loads may average one ton and a half to each horse, exclusive of their waggon or cart. With such a load they will always look fat, well, and be cheerful, working eight hours per day. Where they are standing a great deal about, and only taking loads very short distances, of course they may be heavier, and the horses out a longer time ; particularly when the horses have time to feed while out, as horses rest while they are standing. Town carmen's horses work eight and ten hours per day, their load frequently exceeds two tons to each horse, where the distance is short. In camp the horses are not allowed to lie down, and the Germans only allow their horses to do so occasionally.

We know at this moment a coal merchant who keeps fourteen horses of the usual size ; he says he only allows his horses one sack of barley, one of bran, one of beans and clover chaff per week. All their food is manger meat. They are in good condition, and do their full quantity of work. Horses for this slow draught do better upon soft and manger victuals, than when fed in the same way that they generally feed nag horses. The usual allowance for town cart horses is from four to six quarters of oats per day, and from two and a half to three and a half trusses of clover hay per week. We recommend more oats or a few beans, and less hay ; but more of this another time. We also recommend that their food should all be given wet ; they thrive better with it, and perhaps, what owners will not think less of, there is no fear of their becoming

ROARERS

from a small portion of their food being taken into the windpipe from their hurried way of feeding, after they have been out some hours. This is no uncommon cause of that complaint. There is yet another and an important reason for wetting their food, when bran forms a portion of it. It is well known the larger kinds of heavy

DRAUGHT HORSES

are more constantly fed with dry bran than any other description of horse, and that they are more subject to the

CHOLIC

'This veterinary surgeons ascribe in a great measure to the bran not being wetted ; this, therefore, is one very important reason for

following our suggestion ; besides we know from personal experience when they get used to it, they fat faster and better. Let those who imagine they will purge too much, and thus keep themselves thin, look at many of the brewers' and distillers' horses, and where will they find horses dry fed in similar condition.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

BRIDLING.

We shall not at present enter on the varieties of bits, their use, abuse, patents for stopping horses, &c., but merely mention how the bridle should fit. Let the head of the bridle be so long as to let the bits hang just above the tush, without curling or drawing up the skin of the mouth. See that the buckles on each side of the bridle hang exactly opposite one another, and that the throat lash hangs midway down the cheek of the horse, not so long as to be hanging about his chin, or so short as almost to choak him ; let the fore top hang over the front, not drawn under it. The curbs being tight or loose depends upon the mouth, a subject we have for another number, when

PATENT BITS

shall have their merits and demerits pointed out. Upon no subject have the public been so completely humbugged as the horse. How many useless patents has he given rise to, and what were they to effect ? Every one professed to make any horse they might be applied to perfect and docile. Every man using them was by the touch of this magician's wand) to become a perfect horseman. One man, (since dead) a bit maker ; I am not aware that he had any patent bits, but used to gull the citizens, by persuading them he had such extraordinary eyes, that he had only to look in the horse's mouth to instantly fit it with such a bit, that the rider could, at the moment it was placed in his mouth, do as he pleased with the horse. If they found they could not, and told him so, he immediately replied, " The bit is right enough ; I never am deceived, 'tis you do not know

how to use it." Yet people took his word against the evidence of their own senses till he became a rich man. This shews what low cunning and impudence can effect. To find a bit with which a horseman can manage his horse is easy, but to suit both the horse and an awkward rider, requires to see the latter ride a little way. By noticing his movements and those of the animal, then looking at the bits he uses, you may at once tell what may do for them both.

BAD HORSEMEN

should always have mild bits. To whom are we addressing ourselves? To that most irresponsible person, Mr. Nobody; for no other person will take this to himself. Every body rides well; every body drives well; and every body is a good judge as to some, if not all the points of a horse. We presume, however, to dissent from the self satisfied views of at least nine hundred and ninety-nine out of each thousand of these every bodies, and shall therefore go on with our observations. Although we say mild bits, and that plain thick snaffles are best for bad and middling horsemen, do not mistake us, there are very few good snaffle bridle horses; and that it is not because a horse can be turned, stopped, &c. by a snaffle, that it is a proper bit for him. We only mean to say the class of horsemen here addressed, are less likely to injure their horses with them than any other bit. (At p. 9.) we have mentioned how horses are taught to shy; of course the sharper the bit, the more violence will the poor beast exert. To those who hang heavy on the bridle, we would recommend a noseband to the bridle with a ring on each side. To these rings a rein should be attached. By this rein the rider may hold without annoying his horse.

SADDLERS

should mind when they make these bridles, that the noseband does not come too low down, otherwise it will interfere with the horse's breathing. To those who hold on by the rein when hunting, we also recommend this bridle. Sufficient reasons will be given for this when treating on the horse's mouth. Such a bridle will materially assist in curing horses of shying, (see page 10.) particularly if he who taught this vice sets himself to cure it,

SADDLES.

Perhaps there is not any other thing in such general use as saddles which have stood so still or made such slow advances. Let us look at the last (we think we may say) hundred years. What do they amount to? From the time of the present shaped saddle getting into use they almost stood still till within the last fifty years; and what have been the improvements since? Alterations we will mention first. Well, the saddle flap has been altered from square to round. The seat, instead of having a seam down the middle, is now in one piece. Sometimes the flaps have been lengthened, sometimes shortened. The plated nails have changed about from very large to very small; sometimes covered like the seat, at other times not. Improvement the first: the saddle is made a little neater. Second: stuffed flaps. From Shasto, the jockey, having his saddle flaps covered and stuffed, when he rode his celebrated match, they are now called Shasto by saddlers, and so very generally are they approved that the old solid flap, as it is termed, is hardly ever seen. The third improvement is the spring bar; this ought to be on every saddle. So ought the fourth point, straps. Now here are only four improvements in half a century, if the first may be allowed to be called more than an alteration. The second, so far as the comfort of the rider is concerned, is great. The third affects his safety, and is a very important improvement on this account. The fourth is not less so, keeping the saddle in its place without the inconvenience, unsightliness, and barbarity of the crupper. Exploding this, by the bye, forms a fifth improvement. Well, out of these five improvements, let us draw a balance, to see which is most considered and benefitted—the horse or the rider. The first, neatness, if benefit to either, is for the master. The second, or stuffed flap, the master. The third, spring bars, the master; it may save his life or limbs. But in all these three the poor horse is not considered. The fourth is a joint benefit. It is comfortable for the rider to have his saddle keep in its proper place; it is also pleasant for him to have the buckles of the girths under the thickest stuffing. Here the horse comes in for his share, it saving him the pain of being squeezed by the girths, (see page 29,) and it is also a great comfort to him to have the buckles where there is no hard solid pressure upon them. The master and horse both benefit by the fifth; the crupper continually being a source of annoyance to the master and misery to the

horse, who frequently was compelled to bear the crupper dragging at his poor tail, already more than half worn away by this absurd and useless appendage. After well considering these five improvements, we find only two by which the horse at all benefits ; and even these would be most probably denied him, were it not the master equally participates in them ; thus in reality we find the ease, comfort, and safety of the rider, is all that is studied. Why is this ? because interest is the lever by which every thing is moved, another reason few

SADDLERS

really understand their business, we do not mean to infer that most of them cannot make some kind of saddle, or one saddler does not make a better saddle or fit a horse better than another, but that they are content to make them merely as they were taught when apprentices, and if they make any improvement it is merely in the neatness of the workmanship or finishing. The fit to the horse (if the shape of the tree remains the same) if they have been taught to use a tree with straight bars, straight bars must be right if bent, then bent are most proper. So the shape and make of the horse are never considered or accommodated. Ask any saddler what a saddle is put upon a horse's back for, he will give some such foolish answer as the following :—The ease of the rider, or to help the rider to hold on. Let us tell them they are not right, and that so far from the saddle helping to keep on, it is much more difficult to sit on than the bare back, and if riders wanted only to stick on, they should ride on a cloth, or adopt the plan of the Marquis of Tweedale, ride with plush breeches on a saddle made of the same material, the nap of this being turned the reverse way to the breeches, so that they worked in one another.

Any man who values his horse, will never have a saddle with bent bars ; it is much easier for some riders, being narrower to the horseman's fork. At the same time it is bad for him, as these saddles have to be higher at the head or pummel, and therefore much more dangerous, if the rider, from the horse shying, stopping short, falling down, or any other cause, gets thrown forward. Did our subscribers know the accidents which have come within our knowledge from these saddles, they never would use one again.

Now for another cause, which with saddlers and horse proprietors, seems hardly worth consideration, where the ease of one, or the profit

of the other is concerned. These saddles *hurt the horses backs* from pressing only in one particular place, where the bending of the tree is, and the thighs of the rider ought to rest ; besides which this particular make of tree does away altogether *the proper use of a saddle*. From the above, it will not be difficult to perceive, the proper saddle is that with straight bars ; but having dwelt so long on this, we will defer saying more till we tell the true use of the saddle and its shape.

STABLE TREATMENT CONTINUED.

See that every thing about the horse fits well and easy ; this like most other things attached to horses, is never paid any attention to until serious consequences arise. How often do we see horses with sore backs, which makes them ticklish and troublesome : merely from having been buckled too tight, or from negligence, the hollow made in the middle of the roller being turned on one side. This has other ill consequences ; the groom generally wears in the stable at his early morning dressing, a pair of thick heavy shoes, with which the horse gets kicked under the belly and on the legs, every time he shews, by cringing in his stall, a disposition to avoid the torture of tight bracing.

SADDLERS.

Sometimes it is the saddler's fault, they not making the pad either full enough or in the proper shape. Many horses having been ruined by these brutal kicks. We will just now tell the stableman, for in using the word groom to such as resort to so vile a practice, we certainly ought to apologise. No groom would be guilty of such cruelty. Buckling the roller too tight does not answer the purpose intended, that of keeping it in its place. It is really absurd to see a great hulking fellow pulling with all his violence, and often assisting in this torment with his teeth. This even the person practising it, with one moment's reflection, must see the inutility of such force. Most probably he has a boy to assist him. Does not this boy buckle on cloths also ? Does the groom tighten them after him ? No !

Do the cloths put on by the boy, (probably about twelve or fourteen years old, small and weak) shift out of their places more than the groom's? No! This they must often have observed, but not reflected on, or they would have seen to fasten the roller just as tight as they could pull with perfect convenience, was enough; beyond this it is labour worse than thrown away. It is also a good plan to have a breast-strap, made of the cloths, where no breast cloth is used. They prevent the cloths slipping back or turning round; therefore prevent all excuse for torturing with the roller. Here we must mention a very lazy practice occasionally resorted to, to shorten the roller, that of tying a knot in it. This must be painful to the animal when lying down, independent of the sore which it creates; for seldom is it noticed until it has gone this length.

GIRTHING HORSES.

Have you never felt your horses back at starting raised unpleasantly high under you, particularly if a young one? This is from the girths being too tight. Colts on being first saddled, are often completely spoiled by this. They first raise their backs, then attempt to step; finding the effort painful, they resist till compelled to move. They buck, suddenly fill themselves with wind, and thus breaking their girths get rid of the rider. Strong girths are of no avail, for when the girths do not give way, the straps to which they are buckled do. We have seen four girths applied at once, and all the straps gave way with the greatest ease. If this treatment is persevered in with a horse he becomes confirmed in this trick. Having found it successful in getting rid of his annoyance, he resorts to it on every occasion of his displeasure. This unpleasant tightening of the girths originates in the clumsy way in which most persons

MOUNT THEIR HORSES.

They seem to imagine the saddle is to be used as a handle to mount by, some taking hold of both head and cantle to assist themselves. In this case very tight girths indeed are necessary, so they are with those who, though they hold the mane, draw themselves up by the cantle. In mounting you should grasp the mane firmly in your left hand, put your right hand on the off side at the hind part of the

saddle ; but instead of pulling (when your left foot is in the stirrup, you spring from the ground with your right foot,) throw all your weight on the right hand and thus keep the saddle steady. When you dismount this is even more necessary, as the horses stomach decreases upon exercise. If you mount properly the girths like the roller need not be tighter than the groom can conveniently pull with his hands. If the horse is light carcased use a hunting martingale. If on the contrary the horse is upright shouldered, and large barrelled, have a strap nailed to the under side of the point of the tree, and brought through the pocket loop of the pannal ; always take care that the girths are used on the straps nearest the neck of the horse. This we know is the reverse of general practice, every one putting the girths as far back as possible. However, put the girths where you will, they still must find their way to the smallest part of the horse, which is just behind the fore legs. It therefore is evident the further back you place the girths the more the rider must be placed on the horses neck, when the girths get to the only place they can stop at, and the tighter you girth a horse of this make, the sooner is the saddle shifted. Place the girths where we recommend, and the saddle is at once in a good position, and at the same time it cannot get into a worse ; we have adopted this for many years with innumerable horses, never knew it fail or any inconvenience arise, EXCEPT where this girth to the point strap has been too tight, and then it has sometimes caused the sides of the horse to swell. There is yet another advantage attending the point strap and that is the saddle cannot turn round with much greater weights and far looser girths than where this strap is not used : to be certain that it is always used, have but the point strap and one other on each side of the saddle, otherwise in travelling or with strange grooms they will always use the others.

WHERE AND HOW TO SELL A HORSE.

This is a startling question to those having one to sell—advertise him, says one, it is tried ; a flaming advertisement is drawn up, and ten thousand to one it does not succeed. Why is this ? the professional advertiser is before you, (for know that there is a man who lives by this,

his plan of doing business is this, if the horse is sold a certain sum or so much down,) he is employed by the chaunters, and before you in the market, and forestalled you in every possible way. First, by agreeing with two or three papers for several insertions on fixed days, on condition of their appearing in certain choice parts of the paper, they from constant practice being quite conisseurs, frequently having three or four in each paper on one day. Next their horse or horses have so forestalled all the good qualifications as well as beauty that your horse has not a single attraction, and while these robbers have their stable crowded with inspectors, and plenty of buyers, not one comes to you. The daring impudence with which they carry on their trade, is truly astonishing. A friend of ours told us of one of those beautiful specimens of advertising ; we cautioned him against chaunters, requesting to see the advertisement as we could tell in one moment, he had it not with him, but started off. When he returned, he said "it's all right, the horses belong to Sir George Cockburn ; I saw him myself, and his groom will be here directly with the horses that you may see them before I pay the money ; though I do not know why I should trouble you so unnecessarily. However, it is your own fault, you made me promise not to part with any money till you had seen them." Soon after this, seeing two horses coming along the street we said, "look there's a smart groom to have two such wretched screws." "What do you mean," responded my friend ; "our reply was, they are both dead lame." By this time the groom had got the horses close to us, when we saw he was the groom, the friend and coadjutor of one of the most notorious and oldest chaunters in town. We also found in addition to being very lame, one was broken-winded, and the other a roarer. We got our friend to walk in-doors, and tell the following tale. When he got to the stable, the groom shewed the horses, then urged him to go with him to his master, Sir George Cockburn, as the horses were such a bargain, and so forth. Just as they arrived, two well-dressed men came from the door of the house in Dorset-square, where Sir Geo. actually lived, the groom touched his hat, and said this is my master, sir. Our friend told him his errand, when the mock Sir George said he was going into the country with his friend shooting, and as they were rather late, he would leave such a trifling affair to his groom, who agreed to take half down, ninety guineas for the two, the remainder to be paid in a week.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

To "Advise in Time." We do not wish to trespass on the rights of others, however, we will see what we can do, and though we do not give verbatim what he requires, he will find the substance.

"G. B." small doses of aloes, (two drachms,) lower the pulse; repeated at intervals, till the bowels are moved, they should then be discontinued or given less frequently, until the looseness goes off. From the moment purging takes place they cease to lower the pulse, and act only on the bowels.

"Q. Y." give your horse a cathartic.

"L.'s," horse wants rest, ("not physic").

"T. H." can return the horse he mentions.

"C. T." cannot do any thing, it was his own fault.

"W. E." any person warranting a horse sound, knowing it to be unsound, is liable to transportation.

"B. T. R." had better not return the horse, he would be justified in doing so, but having purchased the horse of CHAUNTERS, *for such we know the sellers to be*, he will loose both money and horse, should he send the latter back.

"J. K." Crib-biting is an unsoundness.

"R. S." cannot warrant.

"A. H." A foot may be too open.

"Huntsman." Draw a stocking leg over the hock, fill this with scalded bran, and keep it very wet. We prefer it to blistering, as the horse often rubs his hock with the latter, and makes a blemish. The former will answer the purpose, and leave no ill consequences behind. If blistering has any advantage, it is that the horse usually gets rested for some time when blistered, but when poulticed put to work too soon.

"Hawkee," one ounce of spirits of sweet nitre in one pint of gruel.

"Coachee," if the horse *was warranted* one age, and can be proved another, he is returnable.

We thank "Stable Boy" for his hints, and shall avail ourselves of them.

FOOD AND WORK RESUMED.

We left off at the quantity of food and work for the cart horse. The racer, while in training, has from six to eight quarters of the best oats per day, all the small and light corn being carefully screened from it. Beans are seldom given. But we shall treat more fully on this class of horse at some future period ; and at once enter on

THE HUNTER.

To say how often he is to hunt per week, is impossible ; this depending not only on the formation of the horse, and his food, but on the country he hunts ; whether heavy or light, the height or width and number of fences he has to jump, and the way he is made take them ; the speed at which he has to go, and the distance. Yet we will venture to say a few words. Let your horse have eight feeds of good oats per day, if he will eat them ; with this you need not fear his eating too much hay, therefore let his stomach be his measure, but neither let hay stand before him in his rack, or corn in his manger. When you have a severe run, and the horse is much distressed, to bleed frequently assists the poor creature very much, and prevents dangerous illness afterwards. Should your horse not be so distressed as to require this, give a couple of quarts of warm gruel, scalded oats, or a quart of ale.

HUNTING DEFENDED.

But why should horses be thus distressed, and for what purpose ? We would be the last to find fault with an amusement, highly exhilarating, and fraught with so much good. How materially does it assist in keeping up the superiority of our horses. How many poor does it employ. Look at the number of trades that are in requisition to make a complete start. Is there hardly one which does not directly or indirectly profit by it ?

Never let your ardour in the chase get the upper hand of your better feelings. When the poor creature,—the companion, the participator, the sole cause of your amusement,—the saver of your toil,

No. 3.

—shows he is distressed, press not the spurs to his “galled sides,” but consider that the noble animal, who has hitherto carried you so gallantly, would not give in, could the excitement bear him on; and that he loves the chase with ardour equal to your own.

ABUSES OF HUNTING.

Now and then we hear of brutes in human form, (who ought to be kicked out of every decent society,) pressing this generous animal till he has dropped down dead under him. These fellows are the enemies to hunting. Were it not for these, we should never hear a voice raised against that manly amusement; nor would any landowner warn them off his grounds. Humanity, thank God, is a ruling passion with most; and when any one worth notice errs in this particular, it is from want of thought. When we hear hunting decried, we can almost forgive the disclaimer, knowing that it is the barbarities some who wish to be thought sportsmen commit; and as these vain boasters make most noise, those good people who cannot follow hounds (the larger portion of mankind) only hear of the abuses of the sport, and they set every one down who follows the chase, in their estimation, as a hardened, brutal, ruffianly fellow, whose sole pleasure consists in torture. Did he mix more with them he would find the case reversed,—that

THE TRUE SPORTSMAN

was a perfect gentleman, free and easy in his manners, and his greatest pleasure consisting in rendering all about him happy; and very glad would he be to get rid of these pests, these butcher riders, these horse murderers. Who are they? either some of lowest of the low horse-dealers, or some soft fool with more money than brains, the tool of these dealers, or gamesters and sharpers; otherwise it is some would-be knowing one, who attempting to distinguish himself in the field, without being possessed of judgment, finds his horse food for the hounds, at the very moment he thought he had earned some celebrity both for himself and master. These are a set of men that deserve our pity. They are too contemptible for our anger. We are happy to say they form but a small portion of the abused and misrepresented hunting community; and at the same time we must express our sincere regret, with all true sportsmen, that these disgraces to society cannot be prevented joining them.

THE HACKNEY.

Here our directions may be of more use, the work of the roadster being more generally equalised. The rules by which these are fed, if they may be called rules at all, are most extraordinary. One man will tell you he keeps ponies because they keep their condition with him better than larger horses. Yet, he says, he does not mind what food they eat. Ask how much corn he gives the pony ? three quarters per day. How much the horse ? the same. Hay ? the same. Is it not astonishing people have not more reflection. Would they give the same quantity of food to a canary and an eagle ? or a cat and an elephant ? Having premised this much, we will endeavour to give such directions as cannot be mistaken. For the pony under fourteen hands high three quarters of corn per day, and from one truss of hay to one and a half per week. From this to fifteen hands and a half high four quarters and from one truss and a half to two trusses of hay per week. With this allowance, and a handful of beans at each feed (split ones are best) in wet or cold weather, a horse can do twenty five or thirty miles every day at a moderate pace. (When we come to the paces of the horse, we shall define this term as that pace which is moderate for the one is killing to the other) and look well in his coat and condition. This is the the most profitable size for work. Horses being less capable of fast work or travelling as they exceed fifteen and a half. Beyond sixteen they are only of use to consume food, and for the purposes of state and show. From fifteen and a half to sixteen hands they require from five to six feeds per day and from two to three trusses of hay per week, and *not much work* if you mean to keep them in that condition which they ought to be for the carriage. Beyond sixteen they will require from six to eight feeds per day and three trusses of hay per week, this with beans as directed for the others on wet and cold days will enable them to make a few morning calls and look as carriage horses ought to do ; but drive them fast or far, in short work them, and they cannot consume food sufficient to keep them looking even decent. Many a poor honest fellow of a coachman has got sent away on this account. La ! says one lady, who drives a pair of scarecrows to another, how fat and well your horses look. Bless me how do you feed them. Upon finding these fat horses have no more food than her own, (perhaps less,) she goes home impressed with the belief

that her coachman robs her horses, and discharges him. She never admits that her horses do more work, or if she does that is not of the least consequence, they have plenty to eat; neither does she consider there is a difference in the quality of food, and that quantity will not answer the purpose of quality. Neither does such a horse owner consider that other people have feeling for their horses, either so as to have horses which suit their work or make the work suit their horses, and little dreams these fat horses are only used just to make a few morning calls and go out to dinner occasionally, while the poor ones are shopping and calling about the streets all day, and at routs and parties all night. We have been so ungallant as to fix upon ladies because this mismanagement occurs much more frequently with them; they not having opportunities of getting versed in the duties of horse proprietorship. Besides, it is notorious ladies think horses can never tire, not from inhumanity, but from attributing greater powers to the animal than it really possesses,—an instance of which a gentleman has just related. He started early one morning and rode his horse forty miles to a friend's house. As soon as he got in, the female part of the family said they were so glad to see him—he had just come in time, they knew his horse would go in harness. Not knowing what they were about, he admitted it. Have the kindness to put it to immediately, will you? We want you to drive us to Mrs. — to tea. The house alluded to was ten miles further. He said it was impossible, he had left London only five hours and a half before. They were surprised to think he thought anything of such a distance, and saying they would not keep a horse that could not go further than they could walk, sent to get another. Although we have limited the work to be done if regular every day, we do not pretend that horses may not occasionally go much further, and that for several days together. On these occasions the horse should have the quantity of corn increased.

From the above it will be seen that the only way to keep horses in decent condition is to have those suited to our work; and where they are wanted to go over much ground or be out many hours per day, a round turned horse, about fifteen and a half hands high, with breed, can be most advantageously employed in double harness, taking care the load and horses bear some proportion to one another. To be perpetually travelling, particularly with the saddle or in single harness, even a less size is better.

COMPARATIVE STRENGTH.

The last article is easily understood by those who know that muscle is strength ; and that a pony has larger and firmer muscle than larger horses, even than the largest dray horse. Large horses not taking their draught by main force or strength, but overcome all obstacles by their weight. Mr. Tickel, the brewer, of East Smith field, tried the following experiment :—He had one of the largest dray horses in London ; on the back of this he had moderate weights placed one after the other, till the large horse lay down under them. They were then removed from his back gradually (i. e. as they had been put on) on the back of a light weedy blood pony. He not only received all the weight without laying down, but trotted across the yard with it.

Although the pony proved himself the stronger animal of the two in one way, (that of carrying the heaviest burthen,) yet he could not draw any thing like the load of the other. You must have weight to contend with weight in drawing. Again, the pony or lighter horse, travelling side by side of the heavy horse, neither of them having any thing on their backs, the large horse would be knocked up while the smaller one was nearly as fresh as at starting. The same result would follow if the two were put to draw against one another, giving to the little horse the draught in proportion to his weight. The result shews the small horse to be much the stronger animal in proportion to his size, his bones are also much stronger and firmer. Take the leg bone of a dray horse, and saw it through, you will find it quite soft, try the same experiment with the blood horses' leg, and you will find it compact and hard as ivory. When we treat on breeding in a future number, the superior strength of the small horse will be still further accounted for.

WATER.

To stint horses in water is a cruel and unthrifty practice, and we are glad to find it is now getting exploded, even the racer, when in training, now gets all the water he wants, those who drink greedily having it given them several times a-day. Broken-winded horses the same, it now being proved keeping them short answers no good purpose, but by keeping up a slow fever shortens their lives. We do not recommend that horses should generally have very large

quantities given them at once, as this will purge them as much as a dose of physic, but if he has been used to the stinting treatment, and you begin by giving him water from four to six and eight times a-day, he will soon get to drink only sufficient to refresh nature. It is only the horse which has been kept in a continued state of thirst ; from having the pail snatched away long before he has done ; that does not know when to leave off. Why are horses

STANDING AT LIVERY

always craving after water when you take them out ? We are ashamed to state it, but truth must be told. The sufferings of the poor beasts, the keepers of these receptacles for famishing horses, (many of them are nothing else,) care not for, so that they get a few paltry pence ; (that there are respectable livery-stable-keepers we allow, who do justice to the horses under their care, and who, I am sure, will thank us for this exposure of the iniquitous, who serve to bring down obloquy upon all.) The following is the way they make not giving water pay them : all the food a horse gets is dry, the natural food of the horse is succulent, yet even when he gets this, while out at grass, and left to do as he pleases, he generally drinks twice a-day, morning and evening. The animal which requires to drink with moist food, it may reasonably be supposed must require to do so, much more frequently, with artificial dry food, and that when he is thirsty he cannot eat. This the crafty stable-keeper knows full well, and is well aware if the owner complains of the unthriftiness of his horse, that he has only to order some hay to be put before him, which he will not touch ! to persuade the owner he has as much as he can eat, but wants physic. Here is a plentiful harvest, mashes are given, the corn is stopped, and the physic charged for ; this may or may not be given, and the horse does not go out for three weeks, this being about the time they take to physic. When it is over, the horse has a more staring coat, and looks worse than ever. You mention this, the reply, physic (did he speak truly he would say starvation,) always pulls down a horse, and it worked him beautifully. To shew how much better horses can work with plenty of water than without it, we were driving a mare which we had had a long while, to Gray's Thurrock, in Essex, twenty-five miles from London. The night before starting she was at a livery-stable. We got the mare to Romford, only twelve miles, when we observed to a

friend that the mare seemed so unwell that we would hire a horse and go on. We stopped for the purpose, and desired the ostler to give her hay and water at the door ; she would not touch the former, but seemed so eager for the pail that we desired she might have what water she would drink. When she had taken two or three swallows, the ostler in the usual way threw the water up her nose and took the pail away. Never did any poor beast shew its distress more forcibly, or ask more intelligibly, by looks for more water. We desired she might have it, the man grumbled out something about killing the mare, but obeyed, she emptied that pail, but would not eat, a second was emptied, she took hay in her mouth but did not swallow readily, a *third pail of water* nearly emptied, she now began to feed greedily. We drove on to Gray's, there she ate a peck of corn, she brought us home, twenty-six miles from Gray's, in five minutes under two hours, no ill consequences followed. Had we not been in the habit of allowing all our horses as much water as they could drink for years before this, we should either have been afraid to let her have so much, or from that day would have taken care that they never should want water again. We have known the horse obliged to go at the most rapid pace, immediately after drinking a considerable quantity of water without injury. An officer of the thirteenth Light Dragoons, had a horse run at Canterbury races ; in the first heat he completely beat all his antagonists, and ran well part of the second, but came in so distressed, he was going to be withdrawn, to the great disappointment of many who had heavy bets upon him. When one proposed some water should be given him, he had half a pail, when he seemed much revived, but not sufficiently to give him a chance, the other half was given, he recovered and won.

HOW TO BUY OATS.

When buying oats take care that they are thin skinned and free from dust and damp ; *weight frequently* being made up by this.

To ascertain that they are free from damp, thrust your hand deep into them, you will then feel the moisture. If dry, draw out a handful, throw them up and catch them two or three times successively, you will then see whether they are dusty. Should they be free both from damp and dust, smell if they are sweet, but not malted ; this a little practice will teach you to tell by the nose.

MALTLED OATS

are very bad for horses. Should you feed them on them for two or three days, it will make them stale excessively ; this causes very great weakness, and they will soon get thin if kept to them. Beans, the general remedy against this, will not prevent it sufficiently to make it worth while to use such oats. They are deceptive, generally being of the brightest and best colour; but be not tempted by colour. If the oats are sweet and heavy, free from damp, hull and dirt, with thin skins, colour is not of any consequence, *except* they are black, these do *not* suit *nag* horses making them stale as bad, or nearly so as the malted ones. Next consider the prices and weights, to ascertain which is the most profitable oat to buy. If oats of forty pounds to the bushel are to be bought at twenty five shillings the quarter (or eight bushels), that is three farthings and a fraction per lb., and oats weighing only four pounds heavier are thirty two, that is paying seven shillings for the extra thirty two pounds, being two-pence halfpenny fraction for every pound over the forty. Therefore the first must be the cheapest

BEANS.

When you give any let them always be split beans, the driest and heaviest with least husk and dust amongst them are the best. But in buying these sometimes as shewn with oats, a few pounds extra weight are bought too dear.

HAY.

For *nag* horses meadow hay is best, it should be firm, but not harsh, brittle, hard and dry, (no more nutriment can be got out of it than dead sticks of the same size,) neither should it be so soft as rowan or second crop hay. Off old pastures it is best, this you can tell by the bents not being too coarse and full of herbage. Old hay is best, horses like it better for being a little heated, but it should not be mow burnt or it induces too much thirst. If there are thistles in it, let them be carefully taken out.

STRAW.

Take care this is not damp, horses frequently having caught cold and rheumatisms from this unsuspected cause, resorted to by the

sellers to give it weight. If there is any hard substance, or any thing likely to be unpleasant to the horse, throw it away. In purchasing straw draw a handful from the middle of the truss, this being the made up part, the outsides are sure to be long.

BRAN.

See that it is sweet when it comes in, and only have in enough for a few days use at a time, as it soon spoils and is then very unhealthy.

BARLEY.

This is rarely given to nag horses, but for fear by some chance you should give any to your horse, or he by accident should get at some, we will mention the greatest objection to it. If the horse drinks too soon afterwards (from its swelling in his stomach) it will kill him. It is, therefore, necessary whenever this grain is used, that the horse be allowed to drink first, and if a little while before the barley is given it will be better. Wheat is even more dangerous. In some countries, such as Arabia, we suppose these precautions are not necessary as the horses are wholly fed on barley.

THE ARABIANS

place a bushel of barley before their horses at night; whatever is left (if any) is taken away from them in the morning. All day they are kept without food, and ready saddled for a surprise. They are always thin, with large bodies and scraggy necks, as we may suppose from this treatment.

THE PERSIANS

feed their horses on ground horse-chestnuts; their horses are usually in good condition, with beautiful coats and sprightly. How the horses of this country would do upon them I believe has never been tried. Deer and pigs will, we believe, keep well upon them during the winter.

THE GOOD GROOM.

It is only the idle and lazy fellow that is ever in a bustle about his horses, he may sometimes have to do his work a little quicker than at others, but from having a system which he follows of always

putting his tools in their right places, and never leaving his work till the last ; be as hurried as he may, you never find him put out hunting for a comb here, a sponge there, &c., neither does he halloo at and frighten the horses from his stupidity ; but from the methodical way in which he does every thing, he is always prepared ; as soon as his horses come in he cleans the bits, stirrups, saddles, and harness, and gets all that he can ready for the morrow. It being a little later when they come home is no excuse to leave his work for another time. He knows what will take him ten minutes when the horses first come home will require hours the next morning, so that he may not be ready if his master wishes to start before the accustomed time ; and he would sooner loose his place than see a horse or any thing attached to his department go out dirty. To look in at his stable is a pleasure, and he is proud of seeing it noticed ; his horses too are always glad to see him, they welcome him every time he comes into the stable, he is kind to them and they all solicit his caresses ; every time they see him they are evidently delighted. If they only hear his voice, they shew signs of pleasure ; ask such a groom if he ever had a vicious horse ? This has almost hurried us into another subject.

STABLE MANAGEMENT.

WASTE.

This is too common in all stables where a *proper* groom is not kept. The useless expenditure in such establishments when of any extent is enormous, and we are sure that with a thorough groom two horses might be kept for nearly if not quite as little expense as one frequently is where all is make shift, no one knowing what they are about, but trying to keep a horse for as little as possible, the horse all the while costing more from mere want of that management necessary to his well doing, looking wretched, half-starved, and beggarly, with all about him miserably ragged and uncomfortable.

ECONOMY

ought to be a leading feature in every stable, but not *parsimony*. Penury here is a loss in every way. The horse daily decreases in appearance, therefore in value; and from losing his strength and spirits less able to do his work properly. Besides a poor horse ever eats much more than a fat one. Stable economy is this, The quantity of *food* will be found in the article so headed, and as that applies to where more than one horse is kept, we will continue to do so, it being easy to deduct that arrangement into one. The groom will find that some of his horses, from a variety of causes, will have different appetites. One will most probably be smaller than another, another may be poorer, another, from being a greater favourite, (it being the reverse with favourite horses to every other,) or from being supposed the most hardy in the stud, may be most used, as there generally is a sort of maid of all work in every stud, or from just having recovered from an illness. The small horse and the fat horse will not eat their allowance. To give them more than they will eat is waste (as they will tread the surplus under foot); to give less than they require is the cruellest of *parsimony*. The groom will, by watching, soon learn the extent of their stomachs, and give what they do not require to those who have the largest appetites and most occasion for it. Those who keep only one horse, therefore, will see they may want a few pounds hay or corn more or less per day, according to their work, and other circumstances just mentioned. Every person who drives should have two harnesses, one for wet and the other for dry weather. This in every way is economy, particularly to those who have to be out much in the wet. It saves a great deal in wear and tear; a harness thoroughly soaked with rain three days running losing more in its appearance than with as many months of fine weather, with proper care, independant of its wear. In travelling too they get much spoiled. It also saves the groom a great deal of time and mortification (it being impossible, till the harness has been thoroughly dried and cleaned two or three times over, to make it look to his satisfaction for a dry day). For wet weather (whatever they may use in fine) the wax composition is best, as it keeps its polish and does not come off; it also preserves the leather and stitches by keeping out the wet. For damp and wet weather (the brass being perfectly clean) to rub a piece of flannel, or any other woollen rag, just damp (but not wet) with

oil over it, it will look better not only when the carriage gets to the door, but all day afterwards, and save much trouble when the groom gets in ; for, if he rubs off the wet directly and then the oiled rag he used before starting, his brass will not be tarnished, but have a good polish by merely rubbing off the oil when he wants to use it. There should also be one or two extra if not a double quantity of saddles, this depending on their work ; and once a week at least these should be put at a short distance from the fire, with the pannels next to it ; when thoroughly dried they should be well beat. This is the way to prevent horses having sore backs, &c. Harness saddles the same.

SADDLE GALLS,

from hard saddles, are of very frequent occurrence, even in dry weather this process is not to be remitted, as the heat of the horse makes the pannels wet. This damp corrodes the iron work through, and warps the wood of the trees, thus wearing out the principal part of the saddle, much sooner than it otherwise would, not to say any thing about rotting the pannels, and saving their wanting everlasting-ly to go to the saddlers to get stuffed, thus frequently getting this tradesman harmlessly into disgrace ; the saddles hurting being considered his fault. Whenever they are muddy, of course this gets sponged off ; but in addition to this, once a week at least they should be washed all over with warm water, a piece of flannel and soap. When dry, dip a sponge in new milk, then squeeze it nearly dry, and rub your saddle over with it, this care will make them wear much longer, and look of a good colour till worn out ; in addition to which they will neither dirt his master's clothes or his own ; and what can be a greater annoyance than to have the inside of light breeches or trowsers stained by a dirty saddle.

BRIDLES.

Of these there ought always to be a few extra. Thin light leather and narrow reins are pleasantest to the hand, and wear best ; thick ones soon get harsh and crack. The heads and reins will last much longer by occasionally, the night before they are washed, (as the saddles,) drawing them a strap at the time through a clean oily rag,

for the true groom always takes them to pieces, otherwise he cannot clean under the buckles, and the leather rots through at these places, besides which, it rusts off the tongues of the buckles, occasionally causing accident, before putting them together he polishes the buckles. Never use soft soap, it destroys the leather

HEADSTALLS,

mind that your headstall, collars and reins are sound, strong and perfect. To let these wear too long is a false idea of saving, for should the horses get loose from their giving way, ten to one but one of the horses gets kicked, and if not ruined for ever, much injured. These should be oiled and washed like the bridles, every ten days or fortnight, they will last longer for it and look much better, as well as not dirting the heads of the horses and every thing that touches them. Have two reins to each horse, and of such a length as to let him lay his head down comfortably, but no more. There is then no fear of his being cast in his stall, with one rein there is, or if when he has two, if longer than specified. We have known horses ruined for ever by this, and one that had the chrystaline humour of his eye completely rubbed out in his struggles during the night.

CLOTHING.

The quarter cloths might be cut much better to the shape of the animal, which would materially assist in their keeping their places. There should be two sets of cloths, one for the night, and another set of a better quality for the day. In cold weather they will require both all day, but at night the day cloths may be taken off; as the stable, from being closed so many hours, is much warmer than it is during the day, the doors being then constantly opening.

GOING TO BE SHOD.

In every stable there should be at least one hood, and one breast cloth, to put on whatever horse may go to the blacksmiths. This horse should also have an extra cloth upon these occasions, many tedious colds and illnesses following their standing in the forge without taking proper precautions. Having your horse thus properly

clothed, is no excuse for leaving him there so many hours, as they frequently are. When you take him, if all the men are engaged, ascertain when your horse can really be attended to, then take him again. Never leave the blacksmith to send for the horse, or what is worse, send him home. Your master's horses have no right to be out of your custody, and you know not how they are abused and knocked about going to and returning from the forge. Have you not frequently observed that blacksmiths' boys always ride hard, and pull, and tear at, and fidget, and fret, the horses. If this treatment can be worse at one time than another, it is immediately after shoeing, as the nails sometimes press upon the sensible part of the foot, (even when shod by the most experienced shoer,) which, were the horse rode quietly and carefully home, then rested for a few hours, with their feet well stopped, neither the horse or master would be inconvenienced, but when rattled immediately, the sensible part of the foot gets injured, and inflammation follows ; if only so slight as not to cause immediate lameness, the poor animal gets worked on until the horse gets very bad ; some notice is then taken of it, the professional man is sent for, who pronounces it incurable, that what appears a new and sudden thing to the owner, has been taking place for some time ; even so long as to have completely altered the shape and size of the affected part. If the foot should be so badly bruised as to cause immediate lameness, then the horse has rest, and the foot poulticed till he is well.

SLIGHT CASES

of inflammation of the feet are not sufficiently attended to. The moment the feet are perceived a little warmer than usual, do not wait for lameness, but keep them poulticed night and day, while in stable, till the heat is reduced to its former standard. To expect horses to be rested on these occasions, we know is totally out of the question. When the horse is going out, keep the poultice on till the very last moment, and put it on again the first thing on returning to the stable.

STOPPING FOR HORSES' FEET.

In stables this is not sufficiently attended to. One chooses one sort, another something else ; almost every thing has been tried ; all

have failed ! all have been successful ! though as opposite in their nature as possible : thus each have their advocate. Then how is this ? Where all are right, and all are wrong, there must be mismanagement somewhere. Here is the secret : one kind is tried on a few horses, with a foot of a particular construction, and answers admirably. The groom goes into another stable ; here the horses have a different foot, and the stopping he before used with success now injures all his horses. Now we will mention those stoppings we consider bad. Clay : this gets hard and dry in the feet, when it does more mischief than the little good it achieved while wet ; besides which, if it is not picked out very clean between the foot and shoe, it causes severe lameness from concussion. Cow dung and clay is better than the former, as keeping wet longer, but it has a tendency to make thrushes, though not so much as pure cow dung. Curriers' shavings, &c. &c. are all only of use so long as they are wet. The water in reality being the only serviceable thing, (that substance, therefore, which will hold most water and retain it longest, and not liable to be injurious to the hoof, even if left to dry, must be the best,) and this only to hard dry hoofs ; for flat and low hoofs moisture is bad. The strong hoof, narrow at the heels, we will take first ; for this the neatest and the best stopping, embracing the most of the requisites above described, is a piece of old rug, or any other woollen cloth, long enough to go round the hoof twice, and about six inches wide ; soak this in water ; place this gently round the pastern, then tie a piece of string round the middle of this cloth, then turn the top over the string ; be careful this string is not tied too tight, otherwise it will wear a mark on the leg. This wet cloth hanging over the hoof will keep it soft, wet, and cool, as when the horse is at grass. Place a piece of sponge or tow in the hollow of the foot ; fix this in with sticks placed across, the ends lodging under the shoe. When the horse is going out, you have only to take off these boots and the sponge out of the feet and they are clean at once, saving the time and mess, if the groom is clean of washing. If the feet are narrower than they ought to be, never let the horse be in the stable without having these on and wet. Let the feet thus covered be dipped into a pail of water several times a day, and you will soon perceive the feet grow much larger, and become open at the heels ; consequently the horse go much better, that is, less stumpy, and not so much upon his toes as before. For the flat thin hoof this is the worst stopping you can use, particularly if the horse

drops when it treads on a sharp stone, and goes lame a few yards after. Stop these feet with half pitch and half tar mixed together, and let as little water as possible get to these hoofs. If this is regularly attended to for a fortnight, you will find the tenderness gone. These two kinds of stopping we have found for several years fully sufficient for every purpose.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. R.—Take four quarts of blood and give one ounce of spirits of nitre in a pint of warm gruel.

L. M.—Keep a wet cloth constantly over the horse's eye.

H. E. should send to the party of whom he purchased the horse, to state the condition he is in, before doing anything.

M. O. had better let a respectable veterinary surgeon see the horse.

E. S.—Splints are not an unsoundness, unless they cause lameness; not a common case, except when forming.

R. T.—Speedy cutting is not an unsoundness, but is certainly an objection.

B. L.—Many horses cut while young that do not when they have come to their strength. To observe how the horse uses his legs is the best way to tell whether he would do so now. If he "goes to cut," rely on it when poor or tired you will not be able to prevent him.

"A Nim."—A speck in the eye, however small, is an unsoundness.

"Dragsmen."—A jib is certainly returnable, if warranted quiet in harness.

L. S.—Sell the horse by the hammer, and bring an action for the difference between the sum you gave and the sum you receive for him.

"The Groom" is right.

"B. C."—A spavin once formed is incurable, being an enlargement of the bone. If the inflammation produced from over exertion is reduced, prior to the spavin being formed, and the animal is young, there is a possibility of its not returning, but would advise caution in the use of it for some time. Some hocks have a greater predisposition to spavin than others.

WHEN AND HOW TO SELL A HORSE.

CONTINUED.

We certainly were a little puzzled at the part of his statement where he had seen Sir George. But the latter part brought us completely back to our former opinion, particularly as the horses actually were not worth ten pounds each. We however had the greatest difficulty in persuading him not to purchase till the next day; in the mean time we could ascertain facts. Upon investigation he was so pleased he had his money safe, that he swore he would never look after an advertised horse again. This very man advertised a celebrated horse of Mr. Osbaldeston's, Clinker, or Tinker, I think was the name, saying it was the property of that gentleman. It was not, however, even in colour, like the one he was to represent. This a gentleman who knew the horse, and went with the full intention of purchasing, had the imprudence to tell the man, when he had the felicity of being kicked out of the stable; beautifully illustrating the old adage, "Truth should not be spoken at all times."

The advertisement having been tried once or twice without success, is abandoned, on account of the expense. The guinea man, too, has by this time introduced himself, either as having come by the desire of some one to look at the horse, (most likely only an excuse,) and he contributes very much, by his fair *promises to sell* the horse, towards confirming you in the opinion, before more than half formed, of not laying out any more money in the papers. He is to have a certain sum of money from you should he sell the horse; you therefore are satisfied he will do his best. He now hangs about your stable, and occasionally induces you to let him take it out to show. All this time he is "drawing" a few shillings, by representing the trouble he is taking, and the time he is losing, by his anxiety to serve you. At last, when he finds it will not do any longer, he makes a desperate effort; and, if a low-priced horse, gets rid of it, and most probably brings you less than you authorised him. But they are deep fellows, and discerning judges of mankind, for ever "feeling your pulse," and treasuring every little hint they can get of your being tired of horse selling, and therefore know they can persuade you what they have done is for the best, a saving of further expense, and so forth.

No. 4.

Or, should it be a valuable horse, they show him to some dealer the first opportunity, and agree with him for a certain price, and *a present for himself*. He is then only to take persons to the stable who are certain not to buy, and confederates, who are to run the horse down. To the unsuspecting seller the number of persons brought gives the appearance of assiduity; but, from the number of complaints, he at last gets completely tired out, fancies that he has mistaken the value of the horse, and begins to see some of the imaginary imperfections which have been pointed out, and lets the dealer have him at the price which these two worthies have been waiting for; during which time they have been looking for and most probably obtained a customer for themselves, at a large profit, before they even know that they will certainly have the horse.

Otherwise, being tired of trying this way any longer, and satisfied the horse is of more value than the money offered, he is sent to a

COMMISSION STABLE.

Here, again, you are beset; if the same dealer (as is generally the case) does not follow him. There is here always a certain set of men, one or other of which deals in every grade of horse, and who are a sort of attachés to these places. No sooner is a horse left in the yard, than the man he is supposed it will suit is sent for, should he not be followed, and he sets a price which he will give. When one has done this (it is said there is honour amongst thieves) the horse is considered his, and no other dealer will bid against him; and should any gentleman come to buy, the horse is most probably "crabbed," so as to prevent his thinking anything of him. The owner calls to enquire if there is any offer, "yes, sir," for they are sure to have one. But perhaps the shortest and easiest way to explain this will be to tell an anecdote which happened with a friend of ours, it being too common a mode of carrying on these transactions. A. purchased a mare for ninety-five guineas, which he and several judges considered a great bargain at the price; he was, however, persuaded the mare was not strong enough to carry him. He took it to a commission stable, telling the proprietor as he was going out of town and it must be sold quickly, he would therefore take eighty-five for it; asking at the same time how long it would be before they could sell it. B. replied, "I shall have an offer in a day or two; I have no doubt;

indeed I am sure I shall." (as well he might be.) A. called at the end of a week, wondering he had not had an offer sent him, and asked the reason, or whether no offer had been made. B. "Oh, yes, sir, several; but all so much less than you stated, I really thought it better not to trouble you." A. "What were they?" B. "The highest was sixty." A. "Who was it?" B. "A Mr. ——." A. "Where does he live?" B. "I do not know." A. "Do you know him?" B. "Yes, sir." A. "Can you get him to advance a little, as it is no use my keeping a horse I cannot use; detaining me in town, and eating his head off." B. "I'll try, sir." A. "When will you see him?" B. "Oh, he is frequently down the yard, sir." A. went away, and at the end of a fortnight went to B. again; the gentleman before talked of was suited, and the highest offer B. now had was fifty, *also from a gentleman not known more of than the name, and being frequently down the yard.* A told him to take it, and went home, not satisfied with the price, but that he had got rid of his horse;—a clear proof he did not know much of horse dealing. All other things that detained him being adjusted, he called on B again, and was told the same story, reducing the price to forty. He tried to fix B. at this, however it was not to be managed; the gentleman was only known from coming down the yard. After one or two more such meetings, and consenting to take twenty-five pounds for the horse, the expenses were deducted, and he went home with the balance (seventeen pounds!) in his pocket. Some months passed on, and he had almost forgot the mare, when he received a letter from a gentleman who then possessed her, saying "the chesnut mare I bought of yours at B.'s stables for ninety-five guineas," (the price he had himself originally given) stating her wonderful performances, and as she was thorough-bred, requested her pedigree. This not a little astonished A. By agreement they met in London soon after, went to B., and made him pay over the difference. We have several other tales very similar to this, but as one shows the way business is *occasionally* done, it is enough for our purpose. Being occasionally detected and made to refund, these ingenious gentlemen now adopt another method, which makes them "safe." They get some one about the yard to father their horses.

FATHERING HORSES.

Representing a horse to be your own, while it is the property of another, and running all the risks of ownership for that party,

a private understanding existing between the real owner and the father, that the latter is to have remuneration in one way or the other. Generally, as these men are the buyers of inferior horses, they make them a return by letting them having a bargain in these ; thus saving their own pockets at the expense of others.

This plan completely defeats the seller, the horse always being sold in a third party's name, who has of course a right to get as much as he can for the horse. Some of these fathers are low dealers which their appearance plainly indicates ; others are men of gentlemanly address and manners ; some assuming the dress of sportsmen ; others of various characters ; some, the better to carry on these deceptions, live in the country. But these fathers will have to be further described in purchasing horses.

We will now imagine you are still not convinced that the horse has all the faults represented, and you will give him, *as you imagine, a fair trial* ; at a repository (says you) all must be fair, there is *so much competition*.

THE REPOSITORY.

To the repository the horse is sent. Here, also, he is followed ; and it is arranged for decency's sake a show of competition shall be made, but all are to stop at a certain sum ; the purchaser having agreed to divide a certain sum amongst the dealers who regularly attend these places and buy that class of horse. Sometimes they do not even make the display above mentioned. Should a gentleman by chance attempt to bid, he is soon "choked off" by the numerous faults he hears proclaimed on all sides, as belonging to that horse. Sometimes one of the dealers will take the horse by the head to try his wind, and make a noise similar to that made by horses which are afflicted with the disease called roaring. But to enumerate all the tricks resorted to by these ingenious gentry, to prevent a bargain slipping through their hands, would be very tedious, and perfectly useless. Have the horse, or take you in, they are determined.

There is another system carried on at *some* of the repositories which we cannot too strongly reprobate—that of the proprietor being himself a dealer in horses and carriages. He should remember *he is an agent for both buyer and seller*, and that *he ought to be a disinterested one*. How can he do justice to either party, more particularly both, when his own interest comes in opposition to theirs ?

Let those who are *honest* amongst the proprietors of these establishments, or have *one particle of honour*, consider this. So much for those who pursue this system openly. But those who buy through the means of agents, (low dealers, kept about the yard and paid so much per horse,) to purchase in their own names, when in reality they are the servants and merely obeying the orders of the auctioneer. On some occasions, and under particular circumstances, known servants of the establishment buy as for themselves. This should not be allowed. If it is not for the profit of the proprietor, it leaves a suspicion that he in some way participates in the profit, which is more injurious to his reputation than if he actually did boldly and publicly purchase for himself. Under all the circumstances above stated, let their yards be passed; they are not fit men for a public trust. Take your horses to, and only enter, those yards where you really have an impartial agent. It would be invidious to mention names, or we should here give those of one or two that might be trusted.

BUYING THE HORSE IN.

Perhaps the first time of the horse being put up you fix a price, under which he is not to be sold; or you attend, or get a friend or servant to buy him in. You no sooner get him home than a set of dealers follow him up making offers of less than you refused at the hammer, their argument to induce you to take their money is pretty much the same from all; that is, its a very fair price, they have a living to get and you will save a shilling in the pound from the auctioneer, and the same for the duty, and what they have offered is only a little under the ten per cent. that is deducted. If you refuse this offer, several others come each one offering less than the last; they have all been sent by the first who now shews himself again, and too frequently succeeds in "badgering" you into his price. Should he not obtain his ends, and the horse is again sent to a repository, he is termed

IN THE RING,

and it matters not whether he goes to one repository or the other, the same dealers attend all; and the horse being now completely considered the property of the dealer who has been all this while

following him up, you will find each time he makes his appearance the offers are still less and less.

ON WARRANTING.

If you warrant horses sent to a repository always make a reservation that there is no warranty if sold to a dealer, they have many reasons for purchasing warranted horses, that would never enter the heads of less scheming gentlemen than themselves ; and they know very well they can always return them. What if sound ? Your horse is sent with a warranty, it is one which at a price will suit their purpose, perhaps they think they know one it will match, or probably they have a customer wanting such a horse ; if they have any of these reasons they will give more for the horse than on other occasions. Should it not answer any of these applications, when they get home they have only to lame it to return it. Do they do such things ? Frequently, these respectable kind-hearted gentry have been known to beat a horse over the hind leg with a thick stick until they cannot put it to the ground, then return it as lame. This occurs also when they have been unexpectedly caught in running up the price of a horse against a gentleman, with the intention of making him pay at least three times its value, but who has stopped sooner than expected, thus leaving a bad bargain on their hands, or where they have bought a horse too dear which they do sometimes purposely, knowing if they lame it and return it to the repository, that the owner will most probably be disgusted with the horse and the trouble, and he can get any allowance he pleases made for him to keep it, or should the owner take it home in preference, he knows they will soon be "sick," and that after a short time if he sends a confederate he will be able to purchase the horse at a *very lame* price, and from a knowledge of the origin of its lameness and its cause not have much trouble in getting him sound again. There are so many ways that the ingenuity of these dealers resort to, to lame horses, that it would be tedious were we to attempt to describe them. That the horse is returned home is enough for the seller. As to attempting to enforce the sale would be the height of folly, for the horse would have to stand at livery during the dispute, and in the end would most probably be out "jockied" by the buyer, with most tremendous expence to pay, and give the horse away at last. Having shewn the disadvantages the seller labours under that they may understand the answer

to the question, the first part of which where to sell a horse, we must answer first, "there is no place like home," or a respectable repository, if in a hurry. A *respectable* commission stable if you are possessed of only moderate patience. But if much of the latter virtue, certainly home, home is the best. Now for the latter part of the question—"How to sell a horse," repeat advertisement after advertisement, until the right person comes; it is absurd to suppose the first that comes will buy. Do you when you require a horse, purchase the first you look at? Do you ever see two men exactly alike? Horses are nearly as dissimilar, and fortunately our tastes are suited to this variety of shapes and actions, and should both these accord, the temper may not or the contour, and an innumerable list of etceteras; above all things *never sell a horse to a friend*. If you have an acquaintance that you wish to cut, you cannot manage it in any other way half so effectual. Goldsmith's plan of lending a great coat is a poor paltry insignificant manœuvre to it. By the latter expedient you might, perhaps, prevent his calling on you, but he would still honour you with an occasional nod from above the collar of your coat *en passant*; or perhaps if met full faced, he might stop in a great hurry to apologise and promise to return it. This perhaps the other might also try to do with the sold horse for once, but ever after would avoid you as a pestilence, and never mention you except to say what a scoundrel you were for taking him in as you had done with a horse; and this observation is probably made too after, he had taken every precaution that it would have been in his power to have taken, had he even to guard against the most artful machinations of the very lowest screw dealer. This will be accounted for, in how to buy a horse.

THE GUINEA MAN

has been partly described in the above account of selling horses, yet as it is necessary that you should also know him as a buyer, we give his description before entering on that subject. He is generally a man who is drawn into this course of life from want of character. We do not mean to say that he never had one; but probably at one period has been a smart active groom; he has, however, when he arrives at this, from being too fond of public houses and low gaming, got into such dissolute habits and bad company that his various pecadilloes have obtained for him the general name of a deep designing fellow, and a great rogue. Having acquired this appellation univer-

sally, another place is out of the question, and he now tries to turn the acquaintance he has formed at these places to some account, and learns from grooms and stablemen when their masters have horses for sale, and when they want to buy; every mews has at least one curse of this sort, that will not corrupt the incorruptible, neither will they take away any thing heavier than they can carry. Their reason for watching horses that are on sale has been explained, and partly their purpose at repositories; but they also have another here, which is to get hold of gentlemen who go as purchasers to repositories; for this, however, we shall have to introduce them again; therefore to save going twice (as would be necessary) over partly the same tale, we shall defer it till we come to the purchase of horses.

THE CHAUNTER.

This you would suppose a nickname that some person had acquired from his vocal abilities. But it is no such thing, his only ideas of music are confined to the steps or the cough of a horse, and here he seems fond of a falsetto; never having one perfect in both of these.

The chaunter, it was before observed, was always before you in the newspapers. They are exemplary models of patience also. They say until your horse is quite ready for sale, and that until you have advertised several times no one will take the trouble to answer one. Acting on this principle, they frequently leave three copies of their advertisements at three or four offices at one time, naming particular days that they wish it inserted, and frequently two or three of these advertisements will appear from one man in each of the leading morning papers on the same day. It is these advertisements that get them the name of chaunters: an advertisement "well got up," that is, one that will bring a good many persons to look at the horse, being termed a "good chaunt." So those who live by selling horses with false representations are called chaunters, they being obliged to get their customers by advertisements; every one who buys of them being "sold," so that he will not go near them again but warn his friends. As to punish them is almost out of the question, while to call a **THIEF** a **THIEF** is an offence against the laws, and subjects you to the punishment of a libel, until the man is hung; even though you see him actually take your purse from your pocket. We will, therefore let you into the secrets by which the chaunters evade the

law, as the only assistance we can render—neither will it be despicable—but, by properly attending to it probably it may be as useful as though we dare name them; first on the list is a man that has been several times imprisoned before the present mode of “doing business” was discovered, and which will be presently described. He is now supposed to be worth several thousand pounds; there is another also worth several thousands, besides many who are worth money, and all extravagant fellows. Their plan is to get some very handsome horse at little money. Lame or broken-winded, or both, or a roarer, age of no consequence, as they bishop him if necessary. They then get him into very high condition, and advertise him as the property of a gentleman; for this they get some one to father him, (a term before described,) if he has been a well-known man, so much the better, a captain does well, and often figures on these occasions; the sons of persons beyond esquires have also taken up this *honourable servitude*, when bankrupts alike in pocket and reputation. Here, I believe, the only way to make this part of the system intelligible, will be to relate how persons are frequently taken in by them. You are induced from the flaming advertisement to go and look at the horses; you fix upon one, and wish to see him out, a *gentleman*, now in confidence, lets you into the secret, that he is a little out at elbows just now, (in difficulties,) or would not part with the horse for the world, he is invaluable, and then enumerating a long catalogue of virtues in the praise of all his stud, and that nothing would give him so much pleasure as your trying the horse you have fixed upon, but unfortunately that very morning the horses had been seized. He now tries by entreaties to move the inexorable bailiff, (one of their party,) but without success. The horse is of considerable value; at last the pretended bailiff is induced, by your depositing your cheque for the whole, or half in hard cash of the sum demanded for the horse, to let you try him, on condition you do not go far, or some such trick, to put you off your guard.

You now have got a beautiful horse to look at, but not worth twenty pounds, which a very short ride proves; and return for whatever you have left, your money or cheque, the *gentleman* is gone, no one knows where; if you go the bankers, the cheque is changed before you arrive, and the parties left with the money. You have left the horse, and return for it, that probably is gone too, should you afterwards catch the parties, the law says, it is a *simple contract debt*, and you have your remedy, you may bring an action, (a most terrific

thing certainly to an honest man, whom it ought to protect, but the laughing stock of rogues, whom it never can hurt). Against whom? a beggar, over head and ears in debt, perhaps only wanting some one to arrest him, the greatest kindness any person can perform for him, otherwise he is only living out of the way of his creditors. The real owner has probably been watching the transaction through some little hole in the stable, (frequently a crack or gimblet hole in the staircase, or the coach-house wall.) Chaunters are very fond of taking the stables of a well-known man, and advertising at so-and-so's stables. A doctor was once much noted for this, the poor dupes imagining they were purchasing his horses, until they attempted to return them, when they found the doctor was sorry to find he had got such bad tenants for his stable. Here again to attempt to enumerate their ways would be an endless task, and as the gentlemen of *this profession* are daily changing their plans, it would be useless, yet we will tell the trades which have hitherto added this lucrative occupation to their other calling, or rather, taken the trade as a blind to chaunting, *Corn-chandlers*, *Green-grocers*, *Wine-merchants*, *Chinamen*, *Stable-keepers*, *Picture-dealers*, *Auctioneers*, and *Saddlers*, of the three first there are several, but not so many in the five last trades, *widows* a few, principally in trade, not all, some being ladies of pretended fortune, others are just left in their distressing situation with the horses eating the food of their children. We have heard but of one attempt of the latter kind, so (hope and) expect no more have been, or we think we should have known it.

BISHOPING.

Making an old horse appear a young one, this is managed according to the age of the horse, if he is so old as to have grey hairs about such parts as mostly denote age, (the eyes and temples,) these are died the colour they ought to have borne in youth. If the temples are sunk, a hole is made with a pin, and they are blown quite full of air, as you see the thin transparent skin of veal, (cellular membrane,) when hanging at the butchers. This, however, requires doing frequently, as the air soon escapes, seldom lasting more than a day. These are more properly aids which bishoping frequently requires; bishoping, in the strict sense of the word, being confined to the *dental* part of the profession, and we doubt whether we have not some quadruped practitioners, that would make a biped blush, so

dexterous are they in their operations. Some writers, who have described this operation, can only, if they have seen it at all, have seen it when performed by bunglers in the science, when they describe it as merely making marks in the teeth, easily detected, by the *length of the teeth, and the roundness of the holes*. An expert bishoper knows, according to the age he wishes the horse to appear, whether they should shut upon or over one another, and his first care is to file the teeth of this length. He then does not make the clumsy round black mark represented, but a most exact representation of the real one. In showing the horse, this alone is not trusted to, but his mouth is rubbed with salt, or some bitter to make him froth his mouth, and appear like a gay young horse, champing and frothing his bit, and a little spirits of turpentine touched on certain parts, keep him on the fidget, that altogether, when completely equipped for sale, we would defy a person well versed in jockeyship, and the age of horses till eight years old, to detect the bishoping, (when dexterously performed,) unless they had repeatedly seen them. The only way to detect it is by the slight marks of the file on the top of the teeth, (and these soon wear off; we once saw it where even these were rubbed away by the operator,) and the shape of the front of the teeth, besides the length of the teeth is always an uncertain criterion.

DECEPTIVE APPEARANCES OF TEETH.

We remember once going with a friend to show a horse to a *professional judge* of horses (who received a fee for his opinion); he said the horse was bishoped. He was asked why he supposed so? He replied it was beyond supposition, he *knew it*. No six year old horse ever had such a mouth. He had teeth long enough for ten or twelve, and therefore the six year old mark must be artificial. Now both our friend and selves knew the horse from its foaling, and that it could not be more than six, and had this positive gentleman only known what a bishoped horse was, he would have looked at the front of the teeth before he committed himself; the shape in front being a sure criterion—that being out of the power of the most expert bishoper to alter. True judges also take the general shape of the horse into consideration; that mostly altering at the different periods so as to be a pretty good mark, though we must allow it is far from a certain one, unless borne out by other facts; yet it must

be seldom that a horse can be such a monstrosity as to be both young in his shape and with his mouth, yet old in years.

WORKING YOUNG.

Work and food have a great deal to do with the appearances of age. Those who do not understand the horse may observe more readily in man. The country labourer, who drudges through more incessant toil, and lives harder than mechanics in cities generally do, looks about thirty-five, as old as the latter does at fifty. And the race horse that begins to work young, while in training from general appearances, unless you looked at his teeth, you would frequently pronounce aged when he was little more than four years old. It is well known that occasionally horses retain the natural six year-old mark in their teeth till twelve and fourteen; the teeth of these horses being remarkably hard, and they must have been much in the stable, where they have not met with sand and grit in their food to wear them out. But then the front of the upper teeth project considerably over, and the gums have shrivelled away, showing the altered shape of the upper part of the tooth which age puts on. A horse of this kind was brought as a puzzle to us the other day; the owner knowing his exact age. He said many judges had seen it, but we were the only persons who had pronounced the age correctly.

We have also seen colts with the upper jaw projecting considerably over the under, but these are deviations from the general law of nature which we cannot guard you against, much practice being necessary to judge correctly where she wanders from her usual path. The best rule is to buy a horse young on the legs, this being a better guide than the teeth, being more easily detected by general purchasers. Besides, the error which persons too commonly labour under, is that of buying their horses too young: you should suit the age to the work, a thing never considered. A horse must be young whatever he is to be put to, except with coach-masters; they know their own interest, and that what is called by most people aged, (upwards of eight years old,) stand work best. Neither will they allow a horse to be more than in his prime from this age to sixteen. They then term him aged, but do not consider him too old for work, only using the same term at that age, and applied in the same way, that it usually is by others at eight. The age to which the horse is capable of working, if properly used, is unknown; that he would

last much longer if he were properly used, and if people would adapt the horse and his work more to one another, (that is, his age and his strength,) is proved by several instances. One horse was turned out of some public work at Liverpool (we believe a rail-road) at fifty years of age, not because he was past work, but on account of his great age. Some years back there were two geldings at Dulwich, both of them capable of light work, the one was aged forty-eight, and the other fifty-four years; and we have several instances of horses being at work in carriages at twenty eight and thirty. We know a mare at this moment upwards of twenty-five years old; her various masters can be traced for that period, but how old she was at that time cannot be ascertained. She can now do with apparent ease, in harness, without whip, one hundred and sixty miles in two days.

Elwes, the miser, was aware we used our horses too young for profit (who can teach us our interests so well as misers?) He did not use his horses till six years old, and could when hunting beat most in the field upon the back of a horse aged twenty-five years. Do you want anything further to prove young on the leg better than young teeth. The latter are much easier found I grant, for you hardly ever see a five year old without signs of having done work beyond their age and strength, for this the breaking is much in fault; but as breaking is to be a portion of this work we will not enter into how these evils are to be avoided until we get to their proper place. Every one looking for a horse to last them a long while looks for young teeth; this puts an artificial value upon them, as the purchaser overlooks the constitution. Is not the life of a hale robust man of sixty worth far more than that of a consumptive worn out debauchee of one and twenty. Six years old in a horse is supposed to be equal to the age of twenty one in man. We will now ask those who buy young horses with the intention of their lasting for ever, whether they have observed any of their friends at the same time buy aged ones in the mouth but young on the legs, and whether they have kept their youthful horses so long or found them so useful. There is another reason why our horses get worked too young. The dealer punches out the four year old teeth when the five make their appearance, and beats the gum over the tushes with a mallet until they are to be seen; thus the horse is put to work beyond his years. Even many of the advocates for young horses making up their minds they will not have them till five years old as not being

equal to their work, by this means have them at four. Most persons run into the same error, and take the wrong criterion of what a horse should do. A person wants a horse, he must have a young one, he thinks it will last longer, and he says to a friend who has little for a horse to do—there, your work is light, you can buy that horse; he is aged, but never mind, he will suit your work very well. Nothing is more erroneous. Let the man who has little to do have the young horses, and you that have work buy them when aged. Were this generally adopted we should not see crippled old constitutions with young mouths so invariably as you do. Neither can there be a greater error than for timid or bad horsemen to have young horses. No horse completely knows his business, so that it is hardly possible for him to be made do wrong until he is at least eight or ten years old, and these are the only horses fit for such persons either to ride or drive.

MARES AND GELDINGS.

There is a very prevalent, but in our opinion unjust, prejudice against mares, particularly for harness. This is the cause of their being lower priced than geldings. That fashion "bears the sway" in every thing is fully borne out here, for a very few years ago mares were generally preferred for harness, and geldings to ride. The latter are now supposed to be quieter and more trusty. Taking experience for our criterion, we should say there is not one particle of difference, even at that time of year upon which most stress is laid. In this we are not singular, those who have most experience with them not only bearing us out in this particular, but (saying where geldings are troublesome they are much more obstinate than the unmutilated sex,) they also say mares are much stronger, more lively, and able to work with less food; this, had it not been proved, would naturally be inferred; nor are they weaker at their weakest times, (if so weak,) as geldings. The Arabians are well aware of this, and prefer mares far before even entire horses, for journeys; finding they endure more thirst, hunger, and fatigue, when travelling through the desert. When their mares produce a filly, it is with them a source of rejoicing, their neighbours being assembled to a kind of feast.

With our breeders it generally produces a grumble, if not a malediction, and the exclamation, " if that were but a horse colt, I would not take so much for it. In Arabia, so much do they prize their mares, you can hardly purchase one of any breed ; or should they be tempted, it is by a most enormous price. Their horses are procured without much difficulty. Here the mares are parted with most willingly, at low prices, (though far more profitable to use,) while horses are always dear. This is one instance of a false value being given to an article by luxury. The savage who requires his horse for work, and values him only by that which he is capable of performing, says the mare does most, therefore is most valuable. Nor do they consider them vicious ; on the contrary, who has not heard of their docility, and how the Arab children play and lay upon them ? Our mares are now pretty nearly of the same breed ; what is there, therefore, to make them less quiet ? *If they are so, it is mismanagement.* Geldings, it is well known, are weaker than either.

Our stage-coach and post masters, who have most experience, and whose interest prompts them to observe, are aware of the superiority of mares for work. Many of them have hardly a gelding in their stables ; and were a gelding and mare (equal in other respects) offered at the same time and price, were they bought for their own use and not for the purpose of selling, they would prefer the latter. Whenever a horse and mare have contested one against the other, the mare has generally been the winner.

We know that the tide of prejudice runs strong against us, and that it is the interest of many large horse proprietors to keep it up. But it is our intention to make horsemen of all our readers. We are open to conviction ; general opinions we care not for, but put those things to the proof which we think are of general interest or importance, wishing to make our readers, without the trouble and expense, as practical and experienced as the rest. We seldom have less, and frequently more than fourteen horses ; we tried in a variety of ways, and under all circumstances, and from conviction prefer mares, finding them much more serviceable, and would rather give more for them. We once were victims to popular prejudice, but practical proof can make converts of us all. We think every one will agree that they are handsomer, and where they are at hard work keep themselves in better condition, and with finer coats ; while geldings, at the same work and with the same food, will be poorer and rougher. Yet how few mares get into our first-rate dealers'

stables, merely on account of fashion ; and this fashion, too, founded on an absurd and wrong prejudice,—thinking, because we mutilate our horses, mares (because perfect) must of necessity be vicious : in no other way can we account for so universal a mistake. Another reason why we prefer mares, is, if they are superior and any accident happens, which would render geldings perfectly useless, or they get worn out in our service, we can either get something for them as brood mares, or breed from them ourselves if we do not like to part with them.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

“ G. W. Y.” will find “ embodied” in the next number that which he requires respecting food. We thank him for the other observation, and shall endeavour to comply.

“ A. R.”—We should consider some of the tackle about the horse must have been wrongly placed, otherwise a horse quiet for years in harness would not “ set to kicking while being put to.” Too tight a crupper will do this.

“ D. L.” shall be informed so soon as we know of ~~such~~ a servant as he requires.

“ Eques.”—We feel obliged for the friendly spirit of his letter ; need we add two parts of it shall be attended to, and the third considered. Twenty-five pounds are required as fees. For expense in books, and length of time required, if it will not be too much trouble to state what has been your favourite study, so as to give an idea of your present knowledge of the subject, we shall be able to tell with tolerable accuracy ; without it would be a vague guess.

It was our intention to have presented a plate of the Darley Arabian, as the beginning of a series to adorn our work ; but on the proof being brought to us, it proved so inferior to that which we expected, we preferred delay to detracting from our work by an incorrect likeness. Next week we fully hope to present a likeness of one of the progenitors of our present race of blood horses, worthy of our work and the collector.

WHERE TO BUY A HORSE.

This, to the uninitiated, will appear a most absurd question. Where to buy a horse? Why there are ten thousand places! You may buy one hundred in an hour!! Thus it seems to those who have not tried it. To those who have, it is a most trying and annoying question, and we now see one of these, on the above question being put by an acquaintance, stretching up his arms, thrusting out his feet, and saying God knows: having given himself this relief, he starts up to prepare himself for a tedious and wearisome hunt, knowing the toil and drudgery that will have to be gone through, to try and prevent themselves from being taken in. But we should premise by saying the *sum that is to be given* for the horse, and the *purposes, greatly adds to or diminishes the difficulty*, which will be more plainly developed as we get further on with this chapter. Well, having made up your mind to give a certain sum, which you are told will not purchase a horse at a respectable dealer's, or you do not like to go to them for fear of being taken in, you take up a newspaper and spell over the advertisements, one or two suit your ideas.

You go, and are most probably caught by the chaunters as before described, you now will very likely have a guinea man tumble in your way, (sent by the chaunter,) who perhaps persuades you to look at some gentleman's horse; this too most probably a chaunter's or dealer's, (if not this very man's horse, as they frequently have two and three stables,) who takes care to put from five to twenty pounds more on the horse, to enable him to pay this jackall well, (it is a universal custom when they are seen attending any one, and they are all known amongst horse sellers, whether chaunters or any grade of dealers, though they seldom appear to recognise one another,) and because he is certain if this man has any influence over you, that he will persuade you to have the horse. Or you go to the repository, here you are directly beset, and one of these fellows having got hold of you, will most probably lug you into buying a dealer's screw, while you imagine it is the property of some gentleman, or tradesman, or should it belong to either of the latter; rely on it the horse is a screw. "Well, but I pay him to examine it; buy it for me and protect me." "All very true, but by buying you a screw he gets paid thrice, and that is all he cares about." This is the way, you pay him in the yard for buying it, so does the dealer for selling it;

No. 5.

the horse gets home, and then it is very frequently discovered his vices render him useless, or that he is unsound, one or the other is nearly certain, if not both. He calls on you the next day or so, hoping you may have found out faults sufficient to induce you to part with the horse again, knowing as soon as the storm, which he is sure of on your first meeting is over, that he shall be employed to help you to get rid of your bad bargain, and serves you as described under the head of guinea man. Should you not find out you are taken in, (which is occasionally the case,) he is disappointed of a further immediate profit, but still hoping to victimise, looks forward to your recommendation to your friends, as he knows until you discover his treachery, you will consider you have found a (*rara avis*,) an honest horse-dealer, and in consequence of their scarcity you will feel bound to recommend all your friends to avail themselves of the invaluable assistance of so clever and *honest a man*, "so much honesty ought not to go unrewarded, it is a premium to roguery not to encourage so deserving a man." This was the observation made in the hearing of ourselves, by a gentleman so completely infatuated that he would (we suppose out of obstinacy,) not believe one of these fellows had robbed him when it was pointed out to him, under the following circumstances:—He recommended a guinea man as all honesty, and a paragon of perfection to a friend, about to purchase a horse, this friend discovered he was taken in before he got home, returned the horse and could neither get money or horse again; at the same time he heard several tales very prejudicial to an honest character, also that his friend's horse was, and had been an unsound one at least twelve months prior to his purchasing it. He then went to this friend that recommended the guinea man, the horse was examined, and it was pronounced he must have been unsound prior to his purchasing him. This he said was impossible, or he must have discovered it before now, and then asked the examining veterinary surgeon, whether by any possibility such a thing could come on since he had purchased, the question was answered prudently; such a thing might certainly happen, but he should not think it possible for it to have made such advances in the time. We should have thought this quite sufficient to have made him send his factotum to the right about, or at least be very cautious what he had to do with him. On the contrary, he considered he was ill used in the decision, and took him more into favour than ever, his organ of gullability daily increasing, till his confidence becoming unbounded, he trusted him to take

a gray mare, he asked eighty guineas for, out to sell, saying if he brought that sum home he should be satisfied. The man sold the mare and forgot to call on his employer with the money; who now having his own toes trod on, began to feel and express himself in no measured language towards this, what he had termed *honest injured man*. A warrant was got, and the man marched off to a police office as soon as he could be found, which was some months after this transaction. He was dismissed, the magistrate deciding it was a simple contract debt, he was arrested, took the benefit of the insolvent act, thus saddling his patron with the loss of the horse, and the expenses of the proceedings against him.

Never place any confidence in one of them, they are sure to take the very first opportunity, that they can make it worth their while of robbing you; should they let one or two chances pass, it is because they are calculating on a better, and the moment that one presents itself which they think will be the largest in their power, rely on it it will not pass unregarded. Probably you next go to the commission yard, and are almost sure if you buy, either to have one belonging to the proprietor of the yard, or one of the hangers on, ever to be found in these places, fathers, or sweetners. You try to make yourself secure, and ask to see the owner, he shews himself, and you are satisfied; or it is a gentleman in the country. These are sometimes their sweetners, sometimes they have the temerity to mention the name and address of a person not in existence, so that you get your letter returned if you write. You go to the yard and state this, you receive for reply that was the address left with the horse, but his owner will be here, mentioning a stated period, or the owner is by some miracle then in the yard, if so, you see him at once, or by appointment, when he says at the time he gave that address he was on a visit in the neighbourhood, so gave it expecting the horse would have been sold before he came to town. You buy, and are taken in, whether you discover it or not, unless you give a good price, for at these places the proprietor almost invariably buys such horses as are worth his while, or sends to the dealer buying that particular class of horse, and if not at his price, they manage to keep it till the owner is sick, and it then comes down to their wishes under the head of commission stables, in, where, and how to buy a horse, this is described. It is no uncommon thing when a dealer calls at one of these yards in the morning, (generally at such times as they think few gentlemen, if any, are there,) to hear this dialogue, "well have you any thing,"

"yes, but its not been here long enough yet, he must eat a little more." Away goes the dealer to call again, fully understanding what is meant. Reader, we will also let you know if you have not already a pretty shrewd guess from the foregoing. It is when the bill for keep is a pretty good one, the owner will take such a price as the dealer will give, or the owner, the repository keeper is aware is short of money, he therefore intends to keep it till the account is as much as he intends to give for the horse, knowing the owner will not have the money to pay him, and therefore must let him have it for the bill, thus he gets the horse nominally for a certain sum of money, but in reality the profit on his keep less. Now he is ready for the dealer, in their language "he has eat enough." It is very rare that the owner gets a FAIR price for his horse, this being the case, you would imagine the buyer must get a bargain. This, however, is equally rare, the reasons above well considered will account for this. Did you ever sell a horse at any of these places? Did you ever get a fair, or any thing like a fair price for one? Did you ever buy at these places? and have they not always proved the dearest horses? Have you ever been able to buy, at the soundest, any thing better than a good screw? except where you have paid full as much as you would have paid elsewhere for a sound *fresh young horse!* Then what has become of your *good sound horse, which you have sold for little money* at these places, if they are not to be bought at the price you sold? The prelude to these questions has informed you.

Having to accompany you further in pursuit of your horse, we shall shortly recur to this again.

FINE COATS.

To make a horse's coat fine at this season of the year, particularly if the weather be warm, is a desideratum with all grooms. To effect this there are almost as many ways as there are stablemen. The commonest is to give physic, (cathartics of course; this being their physic on all occasions, and remedy for all diseases). They observe that the horse is always weaker and fainter at this time than at any

other. Is not this sufficient to tell them that this treatment must be wrong, for they will tell you themselfes that physic makes the horse weak. Why weaken still more? Have you not observed that giving physic to a horse when his coat is moving immediately fixes it? this again tells you it is wrong. Another gives his horse carrots, this can do no harm; another antimony, this too is very well on wetted corn, but it should not be given dry, as it will not melt in water, and from being taken into the windpipe when the horse has come in hungry, and smelt at his corn eagerly, has been the cause of his becoming a roarer, (horses not being able to breathe through their mouths, as with us, but their noses only.) Nitre is also given, this cannot assist much, it is a good alterative, and being easily dissolved in water has not the objection made to the last. Powdered brim-stone has the same fault as antimony. Whether you should hurry the coat off or not, depends upon the work, the cloathing, and the attention your horse gets, and whether he is likely to be much exposed to the north-east winds, prevalent about this time of year. As soon as the equinoctial gales are over, we cannot see any harm in assisting nature; the old coat oppressing the animal very much upon the least exertion. The plan we recommend is this; cloath the horse a little warmer than usual and give tonics. The best tonic is corn and beans, and a day or two's rest. Let the corn be put into a tub or pail, according to your number of horses, cover these with as much water as they will absorb during the night. This is to be used during the day. In the morning put a sufficient quantity in water for the night, give at least one or two extra feeds per day, for three weeks or a month, and by this time, with good grooming, and increasing the cloathing as the horses loose their coats, you will not find them very rough. We do not say increase the quantity of corn, because the wetting it makes it less nutritious, quite the reverse, it is more so, but as the horse is fainter at this time than any other, he requires more nourishment, neither will the wet oats purge him after a few days. Try this, and in future you will exclaim, "give physic to the dogs." If you cannot rest your horses, and require them for fast-work, bring them to the wet oats by degrees, say for one week give them one half soaked and the other as usual, but mixed with the wet ones. For horses that are tight in their skins, (hide bound) this is the best remedy you can adopt.

Having been solicited to make a few more remarks on the food sometimes given to horses, we do so with pleasure.

PEAS

are frequently given instead of beans, with their advocates they have the character of assisting in making a horses wind better, and fattening him much sooner. Those who dislike them say, (they make horses more humoury than beans, and) that horses fed with them are eternally itching and biting themselves, cracking at the heels, and constantly wanting physic. We consider that they are more easily digested, therefore more fattening than beans. We cannot say that we consider they have any particular effect on the wind, but if any, it must be from their more speedy digestion: neither have we found they have the bad effects attributed to them by some, and conclude this prejudice must have arisen where they have been improperly used, (given in too great proportion for their horses work.) On the whole we prefer them to beans, when nearly of one price, considering the peas most profitable; having less husk, yielding more nutritious food, and more easy of digestion.

POTATOES

from being most general next to corn, we place first. Horses confined to slow work will keep in tolerable conditon with them if boiled, but they should be flowery, waxey ones not agreeing well with their constitutions; care also should be taken not to let them break and get mixed with the water in which they are boiled, otherwise they will not prove so nutritious as when care is taken, with this caution our querists will find a horse may be fat and well, yet draw his ton occasionally. When used at lighter work and kept on this diet, he should not be made to go too fast, or the potatoes will shew themselves in want of bottom; the horse not having the same strength and stoutness as the corn fed one, but soon is out of breath and wearied; and this more or less as care is taken in their cooking. Horses in Ireland are commonly fed on potatoes, where the miserable, wretched appearance of their horses is proverbial, and that even their hot fiery tempers sink under this poor food whenever they are much tried. Who is not aware of the fact of their being started with a red

hot poker. Steamed potatoes are better than boiled, and baked than either. Raw potatoes are good for occasional use, particularly as an alterative when green meat is not to be had ; also as an occasional purge or diuretic. If the horse has been for some time confined to the common dry food (corn, hay, and beans), you should begin cautiously, and only give a small quantity at a time, otherwise you may have serious cholic follow. With this precaution they are an excellent physic.

CARROTS

come next in order. Now we believe, their merits are tolerably justly estimated, yet we are induced to make what to some may appear extraneous remarks, from ourselves being led to try their effects, from some assertions of that justly celebrated agriculturist Mr. Young, in his tour ; I think he is also borne out in the assertion by Lord Kames, that carrots were equally nutritious with corn, he said he tried it both with his carriage and agricultural horses with success. However, we took him for our guide, and most religiously adhered to his instructions, (both) with horses (and pigs), we put four horses upon carrots, and four upon corn in the same stable, (whether we had not the same carrot seed, or we required Mr. Young's soil to grow them in we cannot pretend to say), but we found the carrot fed horses got no flesh, or rather they lost condition with the same (or rather less) work than the corn fed horses, while the latter got fat ; we increased the carrots till the horses had little else, still they were poor. On purpose to give them a fair trial we changed ; giving the corn fed horses the carrots, and the others corn ; those which had remained poor before while on carrots now got fat, and those which had been fat with corn became poor. We tried each for some months rather charmed with the theory of that plausible writer, but facts are stubborn things, and practice very frequently upsets the best argued theory. Though rather foreign to our subject, as the pigs were experimented upon at the same time, we will allow them their grunt, and we verily believe, had their food not been changed they might have been at it to this day, for the butcher's knife would never have made such lank wretches as they promised to be squeak. As an alterative they are certainly good, but their merits are much over-rated, they have had many fancied virtues ascribed to them, such as rendering the coat fine, &c., rest assured if the horses

have not plenty of corn also, their coats will soon get dry, long and poor; when the horse requires an alterative, they acting as such, do assist in fineing the coat, but then any other will do as well. They act more upon the kidneys than the potatoe, before you use them reflect on this, and use that which the horse most requires.

PARSNIPS.

These some prefer to carrots as being more fattening; we never tried them sufficiently to give an opinion as to which is best, but have come to the conclusion that there cannot be very much, if any difference.

TURNIPS.

as a food for horses we certainly do not admire; we saw them used on a very extensive scale for this purpose in the neighbourhood of Saxmundham, in Suffolk. The colts, the mares, the stallions, the working horses and all, had their turnips; during the winter the horses in the straw yard, and the colts had little else. The stallions and working horses had corn and beans mixed with what they termed bran, it was the husks of the wheat as left after being thrashed, their allowance we do not now recollect, but they were poor and looked badly fed. Those in the yard both old and young, generally looked like half-starved straw yard horses, here and there one looked moderately passable; at first we attributed this to the bad management manifested by putting those of all ages and sizes together in one yard, as well as every sort and description of cattle; when from the number of yards and other conveniences they might have had them all properly sorted and arranged. We watched, and found that although the master horse was a little in the advance in condition, yet that could not be the only reason, as there always was plenty of turnips in the troughs, and that when the boldest had done they let the next valiant, and so on in succession till the poorest and most defenceless (amongst which was a young one with his back so badly broken that he had hardly any use of his hind quarters,) was left in peaceable possession. Finding that these even eat till they left, we began to seek for a new solution to this mystery; particularly as the poor cripple was not the thinnest. We now examined his mouth, concluding that those which were the

most wretched looking, must be either too young or too old to eat turnips. We examined the mouths of these and found that none were too old ; a few might almost be considered young to bite them. These observations were made on a brood farm where there was always kept, including brood mares and foals, from seventy to eighty horses. Our conclusions are, that turnips are not a proper food for horses, for one of these two reasons, either they do not yield a sufficient quantity of nutriment for horses, or that they are too troublesome for horses to masticate ; and they leave off eating them from the muscles of the jaw becoming tired prior to the stomachs receiving the proper supply of food ; or why should they be poor when they had more than they would eat ? for look when you would still there were turnips in the trough.

It was the Swedish turnip which we saw being used ; the common white we were informed had been tried with worse success. From this we should conclude, coupled with the over abundant supply, that it is more the want of proper nourishment (for horses) in the turnips than their being too hard ; the white being much softer than the Swedish, yet did not agree with them so well.

MANGEL WURZEL.

This we once attempted on a small scale, but found the horses very obstinate in refusing to eat it, therefore came to the conclusion that that which they so strongly resisted could not be very nutritious, we the more readily gave way to this idea, as cows, sheep, and pigs, who fat easily upon this root, at once eat it greedily. We found they had also tried it at the above farm. They said horses were longer learning to eat it than turnips, that they would get to eat it tolerably well, but that they did better on turnips.

Here we cannot help saying perhaps they did not give it a fair trial ; mangel wurzel being at this time not common in the neighbourhood, and this the only farm where its merits were duly appreciated for other cattle ; allowance must therefore be made for prejudice. Either of these may be tried when other green meat cannot be obtained for horses with morbid appetites, after recovering from severe illness, &c., as then they sometimes may be tempted to eat by that which at any other time they will loathe.

WHINS, OR FURZE AND BROOM

Have been used in very hard winters where food was scarce, the first being bruised in a mill ; of the latter only the young shoots are used. We have not tried these with horses, and refer to Mr. Young as our authority. As a make shift, when other food is very scarce and dear, they may be tried as an assistance. Sheep eat the latter greedily, and with them it has an intoxicating quality, so that if they are driven immediately afterwards it makes them so tipsy that they roll about the road. It is only as a make shift, when other horse food is particularly scarce and dear, the above may be tried for them. They may be able to exist on them as they would on straw, but nothing more we fear, judging from those ponies which we have seen feeding on commons where broom and furze is plentiful, for although they cannot eat more than the young tops of the latter, yet we have seen them very poor where there was plenty of broom young enough for them.

CABBAGE.

These are excellent green meat for horses in winter and the spring, before rye and tares are to be had, or when the latter are too scarce and dear for general use.

PARSLEY

is merely a diuretic ; some horses eat this readily ; where they do, and such a medicine is required, it is preferable to giving a ball, being less troublesome to the operator, and saves a great deal of irritation and annoyance to the horse ; particularly where the administrator is not expert and in the constant habit of balling horses. In fact, by proper management of the above articles of food we have all the

PHYSIC

necessary for common purposes. Potatoes (raw) are in large quantities a strong cathartic, in moderate a mild one. Cabbages the same. So here we have all the advantages of the common aloe ball, with the convenience of being able to procure them when at a distance from the druggist's shop, or no one at hand in the habit of giving

balls to administer them. In smaller quantities, either of the above, or carrots, turnips, parsnips, mangel wurzel, or parsley, are alternatives. The latter it has been before mentioned is a diuretic.

Here to make what we are going to observe better understood, we must tell you aloes, as well as every other purgative, acts by causing inflammation of the bowels. We need hardly tell you that severe inflammations, from whatever cause, are dangerous ; and that these artificial inflammations are greater or smaller in proportion to the quantity of exciting (inflammatory) ingredients administered. Neither need we hardly tell you that a few years ago giving a horse physic was a matter of serious consideration, many horses dying from the excessive doses at that time considered necessary. Potatoes, cabbage, &c., act in the same way as all other purgatives (by inflammation) so will water, as will be shown in our next article on that liquid, not anything that you can use being able to move the bowels without their first being excited. We should, therefore, always pay great attention to the horses' secretions and alter their diet, so as to keep their bowels in a good state (neither too open or too costive ; the latter error is the most prevalent), as the best means of keeping them in health and free from unsoundness ; the stomach affecting the animal generally. Even permanent lamenesses of the feet may be traced to this neglect. Small doses of aloes or any other purgative never does any harm, on the contrary, when the effects are not immediately visible yet they are useful, only acting as alternatives instead of the quicker form. Potatoes, &c., the same. Always err, therefore, on the safe side where you physic your own horses, as it is easier to keep increasing the dose till the desired effect is obtained, than to do away with the mischief which follows an over dose. Even tares have been known frequently to kill horses by inflammation of the bowels, when given at first too freely after the horse has been confined a long while on dry food with constipated bowels. When a little loosened by bran mashes or small quantities of relaxing food, they may be increased till the horse is almost wholly fed upon them, as his bowels will learn to accommodate themselves to the food.

DANGER OF POWERFUL DOSES.

While on this subject we will say a few words on the absurd practice of persons, whether the master or the groom, administering

powerful doses, and medicines they know nothing of, to their horses.' We have known many very valuable horses ruined by it. There should always be strong reasons for giving large and violent doses of medicine ; and they should not only be administered by those capable of judging their necessity and their effects, but they should be near enough to keep a guardian eye to prevent deleterious consequences following. We saw a grey mare the other day belonging to a gentleman who allowed his groom, whom he imagined a very clever fellow, to physic (this mare he had refused four hundred guineas for) till at last he could not get twenty pounds for her, her constitution being completely ruined. After some difficulty we got the receipt of the balls this groom had been giving the mare to *get her into condition* for the hunting season, one which, according to his account, had always been used by the first hunting grooms with unalterable success, and that no man who was not in possession of it could by any possibility get his horses into proper condition. He had it from the only man that could train hunters properly. It was evidently taken from Taplin, with the addition of a most terrific allowance of mercury. The original was one of Taplin's strongest doses, which of itself was ruinous ; but the additional mercury was murderous. Perhaps it was only the strong dose of (aloes we were going to say, but ought to call it) incongruous mixture which saved the life of this poor creature, whose attenuated frame and ruined constitution will never be of service to any one again.

There ought to be an interdict against this worse than useless, this mischievous book, which, from its being turned out of all respectable libraries (except where kept as a curiosity or memento of the barbarism once pervading the stable) and treated with the ridicule it deserves, is to be purchased at almost every bookstall at nearly the price of old paper ; thus tempting many grooms (who are fond of having their own receipts, which they are very cunning about, never saying where they get them, but they have a receipt which will be sure to cure) to purchase this book, thus causing them innocently to be the murderers of their masters' horses. Admitting they have a book with proper directions and medicines for each disorder, will they, or rather *can they apply them rightly, when the experienced practitioner is frequently at a loss to distinguish between one disease and the other, so much are the symptoms alike in several disorders.*

SCREWS

are of two kinds, good and bad. With dealers there are no such things as unsound horses for sale, though there are hardly any sound horses bought by them. What do they do with the unsound ones then? they are one and the same horse, but the moment they get them into their hands, or in conversation with one another about buying unsound horses; such as sending a person to your stables to try and buy an unsound horse, which they have not been able to manage, they call it a screw, or a bad screw, the former is a horse they have very little difficulty in passing off to most judges as a sound horse. The bad screw is one not worth *patching*, and yet may be detected by a *moderate judge*, but then they will not admit him unsound, he is *a little used*, that's all, "but bless you, he'd earn any man a mint of money that had use for him," is their exclamation, when all the while they are aware he is completely worn out, and fit for nothing but slow work. However, this term of used horses is sometimes applied right by professional men, we shall therefore have to recur to it again, to shew a division between the first and second-hand horse.

ROMFORD SOUNDNESS.

We once were very much amused in Romford market, by a man who was trying to sell a pony to a farmer-looking man, the seller said he would warrant it. Says the farmer it has a blind eye, (it had evidently been knocked out, nothing but the socket being left,) "barring that says, the seller." Farmer—It's got a spavin. Seller—Has it! (finding he could not persuade the farmer to the contrary,) so it has! well, barring that. Farmer—Why, its broken-winded. Here the seller seemed to lose all patience, but finding it would not do he barred this too. When a blacksmith was brought by the farmer to examine it, he found a fore leg wrong, this the seller also barred; it was now observed it had broken knees, was bent before and knuckled behind. The seller put to his last shift observed, how could you expect such a *rum (good)* pony at the price if he had *not done a little work*; they now struck a bargain, the farmer took away *his prize* for twenty-five shillings. Five pounds was the original price asked, thus he was allowed three pounds fifteen shillings for two deficient legs, one eye, and the broken wind; they being barred, that is deducted from the warranty.

CLEVER BLACKSMITH.

A horse dealer celebrated for his various deeds of plunder and other creditable transactions, tells the following anecdote of himself, at this time he was assistant to a notorious repository keeper. He could neither read or write, (he has since learned while under confinement in one of his Majesty's criminal prisons), but received while in the country a letter from his master. He was a little puzzled what to do, to ask at the inn or any one he knew to read the letter, might be letting them into some of the secrets of their business, which might get them into a scrape. At last he hit upon a plan; ordered his horse, and took a ride four or five miles from the town, here he drew up at a blacksmith's forge, and told the men to see if his horse did not want a nail in one of his shoes; while they were doing this he got the master, saying he had left his spectacles at home, to read the letter. That was all very well, and both perfectly understood it. But the blacksmith after a pause burst into an immoderate fit of laughter, this rather astonished the dealer, and he asked the cause, when the son of Vulcan replied 'tis plain, whoever wrote this letter knows nothing of his business? How so? Why he says he wants you to get him some *screws* for the hammer, he must mean *nails*, I am sure no one ever heard of *screws for the hammer* before. The wary dealer on his guard replied, ah, so it is, they must have made a mistake, have you got any good nails; if so just let me have a sample.

WATER.

Many conjectures have been made as to what water was best for a horse, and whether they preferred it dirty or clean. With any animal so particular as the horse in eating only that which is clean, and will not drink out of a dirty pail which is universally allowed, we should have thought so foolish a prejudice never could have arisen, yet we see some grooms who preserve all the filthy water of the stable for their horses; even that which has washed a dirty harness, and when they have not any by them, will wash their hands or any thing requiring it; merely because they think it more palatable to their horses, or because they suppose it better for them. This mistake has arisen from horses being observed to paw on their entering a pond, and because this stirs the water and makes it muddy, their attendants in their wisdom (wrong conclusions generally being more easily arrived at than right ones), conclude the horse makes the water thick

to suit his palate. Is it not so ! there are three or four reasons why horses do not drink till they have disturbed the bottom of the pond, or stream. Have you never observed in riding over a moor, or doubtful soft marshy land, that the horse paws and smells the ground to ascertain whether it will bear him, this is the case with the pond. He wants to know if he can safely stand where he is, or if the bottom is sound to admit of his going into deeper water ; and have you not observed after having disturbed the mud, he always drinks the clearest he can reach, *not the thickest*. Were he fond of dirty water, or did he stir it for the purpose of mixing the mud, it would be most natural for him to drink where he had made the most disturbance, and not try to avoid it. He also paws when he wants to lie down in the water, a trick which many horses have. They also paw when their feet are contracted ; in these cases there is always inflammation in proportion to the contraction, and they always seem to feel more uncomfortable in proportion to the inflammation when their feet come in contact with cold water, therefore paw with more or less violence ; and in cases of inflamed feet, whether from contraction or not, have frequently fallen on their knees, either from a sudden pain, or perhaps numbness seizing them at the moment. Rely on it horses will not drink dirty water till they are compelled to do so. Use may become a second nature, and where they have acquired the taste *they may perhaps* not drink clean so well for the first or second trial, but we think it says very little for the groom who would encourage so beastly a custom. Another cause of the prevalence of the error is, horses are chilly animals, and drinking frequently sets them shivering. In summer offer them a pail of soft, or a pail of spring water, and they prefer the former, *not because it is dirty*, but because it is warmer and will agree with them better. Could they have it equally clean with the hard water yet as warm, as it is in its coloured state, you would find they preferred it. In the winter they will prefer hard water, and at this time of the year it is best for them, being warmer than the surrounding atmosphere. Let the groom who doubts this only put his hand in some he has just pumped up on a frosty day, and then put it in a pail of pond water, when he will at once see the difference ; besides, in cold weather if the horse drinks largely from the pond, he is sure to be cold and shiver unless exercised afterwards. This is not the case with pump water, unless the horse is hot with exercise prior to drinking, and then the effects will not be so severe. In summer pump water is very bad, being colder than the atmosphere. Let the groom on a hot day only put his hand into a fresh pumped

pail of water and he will find it ache ; that fresh drawn from a pond will not create any unpleasant sensation.

Where spring water is obliged to be used, let it be exposed some hours to the sun in summer, or stand in the stable till the chill is off. Were the horse as fond of dirty water as some would make us believe, why should they care whether the vessel which held it was so or not, and every one must have noticed how particular they are to have this clean. You must also have observed horses when away from home drink differently, sometimes much less ; this is generally when the pail has some unpleasant smell, or perhaps the water itself, their sense of smelling being much more acute than ours. At other times they are observed to drink more ; this it is natural to conclude they would, to make up for the loss sustained by increased perspiration, and the fever which is frequently brought on by excessive exertion, They are then said by the grooms to have liked that water ; yet, poor things, they are not allowed enough under the circumstances : thus they are kept in a slow fever with a raging thirst, for fear they should be loosened in the bowels. Let us ask these sapient horse punishers what harm this possibly could do ? We know that it does a great deal of good, frequently preventing violent illnesses, and that horses stinted in their water, doing equal work with those that have a full allowance, will be worn out considerably sooner than those who have that quantity which nature says is right. How would the groom like to be kept short of drink in hot weather ? yet he drinks those stimulants which urge him to take more than necessary. The horse has no such inducements.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

“ A Novice,” will find his answer in the body of this number. Did we give the questions when not of general interest, they would take too much room.

“ R. T.” Send word to our office where the character is to be obtained, and should it prove as he represents a place is ready for him.

“ K. E.” We do not at present know of such a horse as he requires.

“ L. P. A.” The noise which he describes on pulling up the horse sharply, is roaring. He is therefore unsound.



THE DARLEY ARABIAN.

THE DARLEY ARABIAN.

We begin our series of horse portraits with the Darley Arabian, considering he must bear the greatest interest, from being the sire of our present family of race horses. His portrait, which we give with the present number, we regret cannot contain the muscle, &c., which we should feel proud to dilate upon ; but at the period when his picture was taken, one hundred and thirty one years ago, horse anatomy was very little understood in this country. That the picture was taken by no mean artist it bears abundant proofs ; but that he was not a horse anatomist, if a horse painter at all, is also equally evident, if it were only shewn in the position in which he has placed the horse. The picture, Mr. H. B. Chalon, who took a copy of it some years back, informs us, is nearly of the size which the Arab was ; but on seeing him from the posture he is placed, you look immediately for the heavy weight which he seems to be drawing ; we immediately looked for a barge, which illusion is kept up by a piece of water in the back ground of the original. This evidently is improper ; however, the artist shews the outline of the horse, which (we have not the least reason to doubt) is a correct one, in a very ineligible position ; we therefore authorised our artist, Mr. J. S. Templeton, to place him in a standing posture, and a little more on his haunches, instead of, as in the original, walking and tumbling on his nose, or as said before, drawing a great weight ; but, as it is very improbable he was ever put to do this, and there is not any thing attached to him, we consider Mr. Templeton's position right, and that he has displayed considerable talent in preserving the exact likeness of the original in altering the posture. That we had no authentic records of the feats of our horses till after the time of Eclipse (even many of the performances of this celebrated horse being considered as bordering on the marvellous) is now pretty generally known. But from the description of the race horse up to his time, we consider there could not have been a horse better calculated to improve the breed ; to shew this, we must describe the horse which was considered as the best calculated for the turf, till we were taught better by the performances of Eclipse, who was as opposite from that hitherto considered perfection, as light from dark, and at the time he flourished became the model, which we have tried to preserve ever since. Prior, then, to this period, the perfect race horse was one which now would not fetch ten pounds for any purpose. He could not have the last rib placed too far from the hip bone, neither could he be too small in the carcase (beron

No. 6.

gutted) and a ewe neck was also considered necessary. He was a weak light horse in every way; such a horse we now know could not compete with our present race of turf horses, the descendants of the celebrated Darley Arabian. We have therefore a right to treat all the marvellous feats related of their performances (for many of them are hardly equalled by those of the present day) as fable, and only ought to begin comparing the deeds of racers from the first authenticated record, the introduction to The Racing Calendar (which at this moment we forget the year it was published in). Having thus prefaced our subject, we will say why the Darley was likely to make the improvements required; by the plate we perceive he was the opposite in every thing to the old racer. He was much more closely ribbed up to the hip, his neck arched, his carcase good, and altogether he was a large strong horse. That Arabs, till his stock began to win had got into disrepute in this country as stallions for racing stock, was not wonderful, they being so opposite in make from that which we considered necessary to speed, and the reason why Eastern horses have not succeeded so well since, we conceive to be, that the horses have been ill chosen. According to this plate, and what we have seen and heard, we do not think any Eastern horse of his size and substance has been brought to this country, nor do we think others have been of the same breed. We were once shewn by a gentleman, a great connoisseur in horses, who had travelled through Arabia, Persia, Turkey, Barbary, and other countries, his drawings of those horses which took his fancy while traversing those countries, and the plate which accompanies this number and now before us, is very like one which he had taken of a common horse of Arabia, not the prized breed with a pedigree from King Solomon's stud; we are also more inclined to think this the case, as he said he had met with these degenerate Arabs of a larger size, while those of the prized breed were small horses, seldom exceeding fourteen and a half hands high, evidently much smaller than the Darley these latter were generally, prettier turned for park horses, but were he to bring one for use, or as a stallion for his own mares, in fact could he afford it, and a breeder, he would bring home one of the common horses, taking great care in its selection, and it could be got for comparatively nothing. We are always told of the great price given for the Arabs which come to this country, and their high caste. These we find do not get winners. Can this be the mistake? *buying the pedigree instead of the horse*, or is it that those who bring them home, do not go to

the price for the best? or do they not stay long enough in the country to select properly? or do they not understand it? It is a question of much importance, and this is our excuse for having entered so largely into it.

What makes us still further suspect his being of the common and cheaper breed is, Mr. Darley, of Buttercomb, near York, had it sent to him by his brother who was a mercantile man at Aleppo. He purchased the horse from the neighbouring Desert of Palmyro. Be it recollected, at this time Arabians were in great disrepute as stallions; it does not, therefore, seem likely that a merchant would be induced to give the large price demanded for the first-rate horses of the celebrated breed, particularly as it was for his brother, who was only a private breeder, whose honesty we admire in calling it by its true country, Arabia, in defiance of all prejudice; and we find, as soon as his produce became known, Arabian horses were much sought after as stallions, and Persians, Barbs, and Turks being more easily procured, would be plentifully introduced under the general name of Arabian. Some, we find, went to enormous expence to procure first-rate Arabians, which, of course, from the price, were the celebrated breed; still tending to bear out our supposition, as none of them were successful enough to rival the Darley, though we have not ever heard that any lengthened pedigree was ever attributed to him, which certainly would not have been passed over with a horse so celebrated, particularly as only those things are remembered of him which tell favourably; thus we are not told of any of his stock which could tarnish his name, and only one, White Legs, which does not give it additional glory. That he must have got more colts than the following there cannot be a doubt:—the Devonshire or Flying Childers dropt in 1715; Bleeding, afterwards called Young or Bartlett's Childer's; Almanzor, the speediest horse of his year, and full brother to White Legs; Dædolus, the speediest of his year; Cupid, Brisk, Skipjack, Manica, Aleppo, Bullyrock, Whistlejacket, Dart; these were all good horses, and some of them capital plate horses; the only mare mentioned is Whimsey, and she was a good plate mare. That some of the colts here named proved superior stallions is well known, the two Childers's having earned so much fame for their sire; and it is through them to the Darley we are indebted for the largest and speediest of our racing stock. The foremost of which are Childers, Blaze, Snip, Snap, Sampson, (the last is disputed being thorough bred, and even his size is attributed to his want of breed) Eclipse

Goldfinder, in short, there is hardly a race horse now without more or less of his blood. Having given our opinion why the Eastern horses do not do good, we will mention the countries from which horses have been imported as stallions, under the general head of Arabian. That they have all been originally brought into these countries from the choice horses of the Desert, I believe is also allowed, Turk, Egyptian, Syrian, and Persian. Though they might improve a loose ill-made horse, they cannot be a good cross for horses whose size we wish to increase ; but as we have already made this article longer than we at first intended, and shall have to recar to it again, we will conclude by observing Bartlett's Childers and White Legs were never trained, the latter being early lame ; otherwise, was supposed to be equal to his brother Almanzor.

The racers of old, were we to believe the accounts generally given of their feats, were equal to those of the present day ; but there being no records at the time, all must be conjecture. We know a great deal was fable, and that the "geese" of the ancients "were all swans." We do not believe in miracles ; yet we must do so, if we can reconcile such opposites as are reported about the racing stud ; and why, unless we got inferior Arab stallions, should they fail so totally as they do ; for occasionally a loose-made mare must be put to them. We find the Godolphin Arabian was the last that got winner so as to be in any repute, and his son Dismal foaled in 1733, which was entirely foreign blood, beat Careless, Blaze, Figg, and all the best horses of his day at Newmarket, besides winning several king's plates.

SWEETENER.

This is another of that worthy class of personages, regular hangers-on to stable-yards, and so useful to horse dealers ; they are also fathers (page 51) to their horses occasionally. Each degree of yard has its regular gradation of these worthies. Their business is to swear through thick and thin, some to dress like gentlemen, and *act the character* as well as they know how. To be the gentleman is

quite another thing. In this they agree with Sir Charles Bell, who says in his lectures, it is no use to tell a man how to behave, "gentlemanly feelings will dictate gentlemanly conduct, and unless possessed of these fine feelings you cannot make a gentleman, and if you possess them you cannot fail to be one." These are as near as we can recollect his words. Now to suppose men who sell themselves to the vilest purposes are gifted with a tithe of these feelings is out of the question, although the Honourable Captain — was in the train of the keeper of a certain repository, and many other men of ton are engaged at other yards of this description, and by dealers. Many a man well mounted in the parks, some even with their grooms, are not that which to the world they would and do appear : they are sweeteners. At sporting houses, again, you meet the sweetener ; at certain hotels and inns he is again to be found ; always on the watch when to "plant" a horse well, or recommend his patron saint (the horse dealer), who supplies him with horses. The class of men that take up this avocation are numerous. As we before mentioned, honourables have not declined becoming members of this creditable profession, and who can say they are not "honourable men ?" Foolhardy fellows, or those who are in hourly danger of a tragical exit from this world of cares, full of impediments to getting a living how we can, and therefore conclude to break their necks is better than dangling, like Mahomet's coffin, midway 'twixt earth and heaven. Having obtained some celebrity as a horse punisher, and having shewn the life they possess is not worth the owner's attention (assurance offices should look sharp how they take these gentry), and cash and credit gone, is a great recommendation to such persons as want sweeteners. They will not stick at trifles ; a screw is at their service at almost any time, and a price is fixed ; they have orders what place to keep in the field, a price which they are to bring home is fixed (for them to give the dealer), as much more as they can get is their own. Some dealers are their own sweeteners ; or rather are so for other dealers ; though they have a yard, all the horses belong to other dealers. This is also the case with commission yards. Others employ several, and ride with the hounds, merely to see that their orders are obeyed, and the horses taken as much care of as PROFIT will admit. These sweeteners get hunting into more disgrace than enough. Dealers, we said, employed them ; and *we mean dealers*, not only those who have *honesty* enough to proclaim themselves such, but that numerous class who hold, or have held, commissions in the

army, lawyers, wine merchants, brokers, (not furniture, although these have, in their small way, also appendages of this sort,) auctioneers, and GENTLEMEN ; in fact all those who profess one business, or profession, or life of idleness, to carry on their peccadilloes in horse flesh under another guise. We could name one or two sweeteners who are men of small property ; that is, can live in great comfort without the expense of a stable establishment, so keep a groom, and pass off the horses for the dealer as their own, thus bartering their good opinion of themselves to be the drudge of a dealer. Others hang about hotels and coffee rooms to catch "flats" in search of horses, either to sell those which they represent as their own, or to recommend *some honest dealer that would not take you in for the world.* Chaunters (page 56) also resort to those tricks. Where these men are supplied, or employed by the more respectable dealers, they are furnished with such horses generally, as the dealer himself is ashamed to give all the gloss which these sweeteners can manage for them. Were a celebrated auctioneer but once to hear a clever chaunter or sweetener dilate upon the beauties and perfections of a worn out horse, which never possessed the one or the other, he would burn all his advertisements in a rage, at finding how wofully he was distanced by the versatile talents and acuteness of studiers of horse buyers. That auctioneer who described a house as having a beautiful view of wood and water, which turned out on inspection to be a pond and a gibbet, did not draw half so much on the imagination as these will do. If they are showing you a rat of a pony, and you require a horse at least sixteen hands high, at first they will try to persuade you this is the height ; if it is white and you want a black one, they immediately say it is black, or that it will do better ; should they not find this do, then they create one. They obtain from you, by a little at the time, the horse you require, and then describe to you that they have a horse at home with such and such perfections ; merely improving upon your description. You are charmed with this shadow, and wait impatiently the appointed time to see it realised ; it either being out when you were there, if you went to his stable, or he had called on you and appointed a time to bring it. At last he comes, perhaps with a horse as much like the one described as is the racer to the cart horse. He will try all means to get you to buy it ; if he does that is all he cares about. We need not say, after this, sweeteners are not very delicate in either what they say or do. However, we will just mention one little trait

out of several which come rushing on our memory : a friend of ours had a relation come up from Cornwall, with horses he did not wish to part with ; he, however, met a gentleman one day in the park who persuaded him to exchange, of course paying a difference, which the sweetener (for such we knew him to be, when shown to us some time afterwards) had to go home with him to receive. So glorious an opportunity was not to be lost, and he took every occasion in his power to call afterwards, and get introduced to all the friends of the purchaser that he possibly could, before being found out. Amongst the rest, he tried a great many manœuvres to victimise a relation of this gentleman, but the sweetener having been found out he was too cautious, till happening to meet on Hampton race course, the sweetener made a dead set at him,

(ARISTOCRATIC DINNER)

asked him to a grand dinner for sixteen prepared at Hampton, lots of champaigne and all other luxuries. But what excited our friend's curiosity above all was to see whether he really would have the noblemen whom he stated and named so familiarly, to dine with him. This made our friend, who had pretty well found him out before, consent ; no sooner had he done this than the sweetener proposed they should go into a booth and have lunch. This our friend declined, from having just had some sandwiches with a party, but was so pressed, as his inviter could not eat without company, &c., &c, that at last they entered a booth. A very liberal tiffin was ordered by the hungry man ; who did it justice, then finished the wine and started up suddenly, saying, "just wait here till I come back, I shall not be gone two minutes ; but my horse has to run in the next race and I must alter my bets a little, he was taken with a cold this morning so I do not think there is a chance of his winning ; by the bye, added he, if you have any bets on my horse you had better hedge too. This was a ruse, our friend had never heard he had a horse to run till this moment ; the sweetener knew that well enough, it literally being an invention. However, as our friends had no bets, he remained till the next race, then walked forth to see it, leaving his horse in the booth, to let the sweetener see he would soon be back, so that he might wait for them to meet ; no sooner was the race over than he was back in the booth, the next race, and the next, till all was over ; still no sweetner came, our friend then had the

pleasure of paying for the lunch, the wine, and holding the horse and getting to town without the anticipated dinner; this like the race horse was all trick, there was neither the one nor the other, except in the fertile imagination of *this sweet fellow*, who it seems the moment he got out of the booth started for London. Sometimes the sweetener represents himself as the breeder, and where he lives a little way in the country this helps considerably in the deception.

SCREW DEALERS.

Still does the question where to buy a horse remain unanswered. That a purchaser has such and such difficulties in his way when attempting to purchase a horse is all we are told, and the dealer's after all seems the only place, we will now try them. The price you intend to give, we before said was limited. You do not want a perfect horse, you admit this to be out of the question at the price, you only want him *sound, young, and tolerably good looking, with good action.* This is what we have invariably found required by those who want a horse for little money; in fact they want perfection (the horse we never saw) for their money. The true horseman knows, go to what price he will, still there might be some improvement in the horse, either there is some trifling defect in beauty or action, and according to the work he wants the horse for, he gives up the one for the other; and therefore, is not so likely to be taken in for two reasons, which will be mentioned presently, also see page 7. The other expecting all for a trifle, is recommended to some low priced dealer, who most probably buys all his horses in town. And generally a screw dealer, they seldom selling any thing else; in the first place they require a quick sale, their horses not being worth keeping; in the second they are either employed to buy up these horses by the better dealers, and repository keepers, who turn them out and alter them so that no one of their former owners could recognise them again, when they are brought up to London with their bloom and resold as fresh horses. Many of them get a long way into the country, some of the breeders also employing people in London to

buy them in, when they are frequently purchased over again at the fairs in the breeding districts, it requiring a very practised eye to detect the London mark upon them, when got into selling condition with a proper bloom. In the third place they can sell a screw quite as easily and for as much money as a sound horse. They have several ways of pushing off a screw, one being particularly neat, (though flattering the vanity is very commonly resorted to, and too often succeeds), yet we will relate a very favourite plan with the dealer aimed at, who will at once recognise himself, so will some of his dupes.

THE NURSE AND THE KNOWING ONE.

Gentlemen going to buy horses frequently take some friend (who at all events pretends to be very knowing in horse flesh), to endeavour to prevent being caught ; these gentlemen attendants are called by these dealers when amongst themselves, nurses. A gentleman and his nurse came down Tom Tit's yard, a horse was brought out, the nurse began pinching down the legs *very knowingly*, Tom saw at once the would-be knowledge, and the horse was as he terms it too good for them, and he must keep it for a better judge. So goes up to the nurse and says, ah ! sir, I see its no use shewing you any thing but what's all right, that horse has a splint. But I will shew you such a horse, it is a pleasure to sell a gentleman like you, who knows a horse a good thing. Here Jem take away this horse and bring out, naming another ; this had really many defects easy of detection by a very superficial judge, but the nurse as the dealer calculated, was so completely thrown off his guard by this well-timed flattery, that a regular bad screw was bought by them at a good sound price. This is a successful manœuvre of Tom's, and has been practised by him nearly word for word hundreds of times, rarely being known to fail when properly applied.

These screw dealers never admit having an unsound horse ; one so very lame that all their art cannot hide it from the customer they try to gloss over, till they see they cannot get the person to see as they wish, they then admit he may be a little feeling, or he has only just been shod, or his shoes are a little hard on ; or the shoes are in the feet, or the soles are too thick, or pared too thin, or he has got a little bruise ; these are all trifling and easily removed causes, the

worst they will admit is a *trifling* *corn*. When this is allowed the horse is generally lame indeed, however *they will warrant*. This they consider a complete clench, and they seem offended if you can hesitate one moment after this. In fact the warranty of a regular screw dealer is not worth any thing, if you get a verdict against them still they defeat you.

MAKING A LAME HORSE SOUND.

“ An old man who has been many years a dealer in these unsound horses, a short time back was bragging in our presence that he had hardly ever sold any other ; and that when a buyer saw plain enough that the horse was quite lame, he had only to say he would warrant the horse, for them immediately to reply, oh ! then *I must be mistaken, that is quite another thing*, and the horse was paid for ; and he follows it up by saying he has often wondered how people can be such fools, *just as if his saying the horse was sound would make him so, or merely his writing* the word warranted on a bit of paper would give the horse a new leg or eye, or *alter him in the least*. Yet he says the buyer folds it up, and takes as much care of it, as if it were a bank of England note for a thousand pounds ; I can’t help laughing, it is a pity they should not be taught better.” He certainly, it must be allowed, has done all in his power to dissipate the ignorance on this subject, and enlighten the understanding of all those whom he has got hold of, we must doubt however, whether they have sufficient gratitude to feel obliged to him for their knowledge of the value of such persons’ warranties. We do not mean to infer that very good and useful horses are not to be got from this class of dealer, only that sound ones are out of the question. Though many which are sold as such, the owners never find out to be any thing else, the cause of unsoundness being very slight. Horses it is well known are often very unsound, yet capable of doing a great deal of work ; and the owners so long as their work is done, do not enquire further into the warranty, believing while this is done, the horse is all that the dealer represented.

DEALERS GENERALLY.

Should saving money not be the object so much as getting a horse to please you, and this a first hand one, that is a country horse with the bloom. By this term is meant the highest possible condition, not shewing the least sign of having done work. Not one muscle must shew itself; the horse must be a moving mountain of fat, like a prize bullock. Why these are preferred by many gentlemen, there are numerous reasons; we will content ourselves with giving a few of the most prominent. One is, they expect when they get a five-year old horse, which has never done any work, that he will last them many years. Another, there is no telling how many masters second hand horses may have had, or how well he may be known about town, and the more numerous his acquaintance, for all the acquaintances of his late masters who can recognise him, think they show their horse knowledge by doing so—and when they see any one with one of these horses, whose appearance will not, in their estimation, detract from their consequence. If to be seen with you will add to it, so much the better, and they make up to you, to tell you either this horse was once theirs or a friends, and sold for so much money. Here too, generally, the dealer comes in for more than his share of unnecessary odium, the buyer thinking immediately how much more he gave the dealer than it was sold for, and the informant also considering the difference as his loss. Then both begin to abuse the dealer for having robbed them. We need hardly say that we do not wish to take their parts where not deserving; but we will do them justice, and we think if the horse turns out what he is represented; neither the buyer or seller has real cause of complaint, for the one need not have sold, or the other bought at the price, unless it had suited their purposes. They should also take into consideration that horses are an expensive stock. The risks the dealers run in various ways, a horse may get loose and injure if not totally ruin several others. Horses occasionally die, and even though they do not, a sick horse is a great expense, so is a lame horse. These are things which all their caution cannot prevent, and to get a horse into selling condition is no slight expence; besides either of the foregoing accidents will take a tolerable profit off of several well sold horses; besides the dealer must be paid for his time and judgment; take all these things into consideration, and then unless *unfair trickery*, which

we acknowledge is *too common*, has been resorted to, *either in obtaining or selling the horse*, we consider neither seller or purchaser has any cause of complaint; or should the price of the horse not be mentioned, the question is put, of what was the fault for which the horse was parted with, some trifle probably is mentioned, or the fault is volunteered; till now the purchaser had probably used the horse in ignorance of any fault, or this one at any rate—and “where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise:” this is particularly exemplified in horse flesh, for in no other thing is man more fanciful. He now sees exactly the same fault, and is never again easy till he gets rid of this plague, and heaping eternal maledictions on the dealer for having taken him in. Here again he is innocently blamed; it being one hundred to one if he knows any more of the horse than what he sees at the time of bying, never having used it, and most probably, had he done so till he wore him out, he would not have found the same fault, or might have esteemed those virtues which the other considered vices. A friend of our's let a gentleman have a horse to try from the Saturday till the Monday, when he returned with it, and observed, “You know I told you I was no judge of horses; so I have shewn it to about one hundred connoisseurs, and *every one has found a fault!* but *hardly any two* out of so many having hit upon the *same one*, I have come to the determination of having him; concluding he must be tolerably perfect, otherwise the same faults would be seen by several. I am also *convinced that those who wish to be thought knowing in horse flesh, find fault to shew their judgment.*” Yet so much does prejudice act on the strongest minds, that the gentleman who could form so proper a conclusion, never used the Horse without watching for these faults; neither could he ever feel quite easy with him, always fearing one or other of the dreaded faults would shew themselves; so a friend, who was more of a horseman, took the horse of him at the price he had paid for him about six weeks before.

RESPECTABLE DEALERS.

It being settled you will have a first-rate horse to suit, your best plan is to go to a respectable dealer in this class of horse; state to him you know nothing more of the horse than the outline of the one you want, and the work he is required for, that all other qualifications, such as the soundness, &c., you leave entirely to him, and that if he

thinks he has not one to suit, tell him you rely on him, and will wait till he gets you one; when we think those who deal in this class of horse have honesty sufficient not to wilfully deceive, where it is left to their honour, though even here both you and the dealer may be deceived. In the first place the dealer in this class of horse knows nothing more of them than that they are a selling kind of horse. How the horse will stand work, and what he will look like when poor, or even in muscular condition, it is quite out of the power of most of them to tell; it requires much practise to ascertain this, and that many of them have no opportunity of acquiring, only buying horses as butchers do bullocks, by their fat, and the profit they will afford them by selling the horses again in their present condition or improved, (fatter,) but as to working them, that is quite out of the question. Their sale horses never get more, generally much less, than one hours walking exercise per day, and the harness ones seldom more than twenty minutes per day in harness, unless they are used horses, (second hand.) They always keep horses purposely for their work, which they term their hacks, and would no more think of using a fresh country sale horse than of flying. That a dealer may not understand the kind of horse most capable of doing work while in his fat state, may not appear so strange from the above, but it will appear less so when we tell you that many of them know only what is a fashionable horse, (many not even this,) and take all the rest upon the responsibility of the country dealer or breeder, but more of this when on buying horses in the country. Again, the dealer gets into disgrace from *your mismanagement*, for should he recommend you a horse, which properly managed upon being taken out of his stables, would prove exactly what you wish. You probably frustrate all and ruin the horse in a very short time, for want of that knowledge of the animal, which you as a user, and purchaser, ought to possess. There are several things to be considered in purchasing a first-rate horse, or any dealer's horse that is made up; *the term used for those fit for sale, but not for work.* You must make up your mind he is not to do any work for at least a month or six weeks; the latter period must be the shortest if you wish to do him justice, and have him last you any time. During this six weeks he must have much attention and time devoted to him, but perhaps it may be more satisfactory to give the course of training required. We have stated he is a mountain of fat, this is only dead weight and useless incumbrance to the horse, making him weak by depriving him of muscle,

for where there is much fat there is little muscle. They are both brought on by a particular diet and want of exercise. The animal in this puffy state, with little muscle and superfluous weight, it must be obvious is little calculated for any exertion, and this we constantly see by the *number of horses continually carried off* by inflamed lungs and numerous other diseases, just *after being purchased of the dealer*, and for which they get blamed ; the groom and other knowing ones finding out that the horse died rotten, and that he must have been in this state before he left the dealers, it was impossible for the horse to be in this state and them not know of it, they are also equally positive. A gentleman in Sloane-street had four die, one after the other in this way, on account of using them immediately after coming from the dealers. He imagined at first the dealer, and then the stable was in fault, but it was *the work, and the work only, without preparation*, was to blame. He did not understand horses, neither did the groom, and though they did not work them, what would be considered hard for horses in *working condition*, yet to these four legged bags of blubber it was excessive, as the sequel proved. To save after consequences ; because if death does not ensue, lameness and other permanent mischiefs arise, to which we may attribute a great many of the hobbling horses which we have about London. As soon as you get your horse home, give him bran mashes ; next morning give five drams of aloes made into a ball, bran mashes all that day and next night ; on the following morning have him walked about for a couple of hours, unless the physic has operated two or three times gently, if so, put him in earlier, but should the two hours walking fail to move him, you may put him into a jog-trot until he is, *or for five minutes*, then put him into the stable again. Be not alarmed if he does not purge ; that no evil consequences will follow you may rest assured. Now feed well for two or three days, and have him *walked about* for at least four hours, not successively, but let it be at least divided into a morning and afternoon exercise, if divided into four separate hours it would be even better, every day for a week, then mash and dose as before directed, *adding to*, or taking one dram *from*, the above, quantity as required. We almost always *find four drams amply sufficient*. When the effect is off, walk about for another week, then, if necessary, mash and physic as before. This third dose being over, the horse may now be trotted gently till he gets slightly warmed about the neck and shoulders, then walked till he is dry ; then again trotted, and so on ; not reducing his time for being

out at exercise, but rather increase it. Towards the end of this week, you will find his wind much improved, and that he does not sweat so easily. You may increase the pace during the next week. We now enter upon the fifth week, when he may have a gentle sweat; during the sixth week, moderate exercise again, at the end of which, if properly managed, he will be in good muscular condition, not poor. If he is, he has been wretchedly mismanaged in his food or exercise. Except the days his physic is affecting him, he can hardly be too well fed; for if you do not do this, instead of getting into condition he gets out of it, his coat stares, he becomes weak, faint, and dispirited. Another great difficulty dealers have to contend with is, if their horses are not gay while in the condition they keep them, one set of buyers conclude they will be dull, while another will not buy them because they are too gay; for the first, the dealer must not let them have any exercise before they ride them, for the last they must be tired; or as is generally the case, these timid riders get hold of a horse which, when he has been used a short time, is a complete slug. For a young horse, if he is in good condition, and has but little exercise, is not worth the corn he eats, unless full of life and spirit. The person who wants a steady, quiet horse, should always purchase an aged one, though the liveliest young horse, unless brought to his work by proper training, will soon be as dull and listless, or more so, than him who has ever manifested an inherent want of spirit. We prefer the horse being led by a groom the first fortnight with his clothes on. When the groom begins to ride, let him strip the clothes off, as the lighter the weight on the back of a horse deficient in muscle the better. We also prefer his riding with a saddle to being without one; our reason will be shewn when again treating on saddles.

Where it is preferred one or other of the foods mentioned at pages from page 70 to 74 inclusive, according to the season of the year, may be adopted instead of the mashes or aloes, or both. Where the horse will not eat wet bran as is often the case, they will prove invaluable; also prior to physicing read pages 75 and 76. Some of the causes of dealers getting into unnecessary blame have been brought on entirely by the purchasers. The horse trade having been completely altered within the few last years, and as we think not at all for the better. Then it was the dealer's business to get the horse into condition for use, and make him ride well, or go properly in harness. Now, as we before observed, they never use them, but

merely buy and sell living carcasses. Then they taught them to step properly ; now they are made to do so artificially, merely for a space and trial, by having soft straw frequently laid very deep, which they are necessarily obliged to lift their legs above ; from want of exercise and high condition, their spirits are gay and elastic, and the soft ground invites to play, and thus they make a pretty good shew. Have you never observed even a worked and tired horse will carry himself better, and will frequently play and jump about, upon being rode on a piece of turf ; another reason for soft approaches to the stable, is when the horse, with even slightly inflamed feet, first comes out of the stable, if he has to tread on hard ground, he shews it is uncomfortable to him ; but if he gets a few steps on the soft, the circulation is increased, and he then runs upon the hard much better.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

“Eques.” To acquire the theory, his education will certainly assist ; and a good theoretician is sure to pass. That you might get a diploma in about six months by close application. But practical knowledge is more difficult to acquire ; and we should say to succeed as a practitioner from two to three years is the shortest period you should calculate upon. Very many books are not considered requisite, but about fifteen pounds we consider may be laid out advantageously in these.

“E. R.” We should recommend him to Mr. Fozard, of Halkin-street, Belgrave-square.

“C. N.” Corns are an unsoundness ; but as you have kept the horse a week before discovering them, and the seller denies they were there prior to sale, we would recommend you to keep him.

Our other correspondents in our next.

TO OUR READERS.

We are happy to say this work has sold so much beyond our most sanguine expectations that the first number is obliged to be reprinted —so will the subsequent numbers in a few days.

DEALERS (*continued.*)

Did you ever wear a pair of tight boots ? If so, have you not found for the few first yards you walked in pain, and that this pain left you after walking a short distance ? This is precisely the case with the horse. His hoofs are the boots ; these have been contracted by hot stables, work, and mismanagement, or all combined, or either by itself, will effect this. The hard hoof then pressing on the sensible foot contained in it, which they always do in cases of inflammation and contraction, must be far worse than our thinner and more elastic boots ; particularly where the fore-quarters of the animal are heavy, and his action high : he would, therefore, if he trod on hard ground at once, hardly lift his feet, in comparison with the way he steps on the straw until the circulation had been increased, and the pain of the whip and bit had become so great as to overcome that of the feet, the whip and bit on these occasions answering the purpose of the torture used by would-be grooms, but who evidently do not know their business, to trim horses, and which instruments of punishment they call twitches ; sometimes they are applied to the nose, and sometimes the ear, or both ; the pain occasioned by these preventing the poor brute from feeling the skin being roasted off his head, neck, and ears by the candle while he is being, what his attendant is pleased to call, trimmed, and a pretty improvement it is sure to be when these cruel means are resorted to. Where trimming is properly performed, the horse will stand quiet without cruelty or force ; he does not fear the operation, because it is unattended by pain ; the horse punished as described, is sure to be restless, and therefore improperly burnt, looking for some time after as if he had just got over some disease of the skin which has brought it out in sores.

You have seen a horse which pleases you ; his action is just that which of all others you prefer, and this too without any artifice on the dealer's part. You take your new purchase home rejoicing. The horse is put to work ; after a little while he does not step so showey as when you first had him ; a little longer, and it is again decreased ; until at last he steps like other *used* horses. Here the dealer is again improperly blamed ; your work has been too much for his action. Those horses which step high and what is termed grand, are soon knocked up, and of course the higher they step the easier is this effected.

LORD ONGLEY'S COVENTRY.

The celebrated horse, Coventry, it is said, could not go twenty miles in one day along the road, even in his best days, without being dreadfully knocked up. Yet on account of his grand action, he was sold for three hundred guineas by Mr. Ramsey to Lord Ongley; and a very few weeks back he was sold at Thomas's stables, in Oxford Street for seventy; although he must be a very old horse, his action is still very showey; but it has only been kept up by his having always had the good luck to fall into the hands of those who never wanted him for work, being contented with him as a show horse for the parade. Had he been compelled to work, either his action must have altered, or he would very soon have been worn out.

GRAND ACTION.

Another buys a horse with this action, who really only wants him for parade; nor does he over work him, but then he does not know the way to use these horses; he has not the hand or management required: in fact, he is not a horseman, and the horse soon looses all his shew, he is no longer gay, vulgar is his gait, his looks and movements are hacknied and common; the bend of the haunch and knee, the fine raised forehead and the bending croup, the graceful, proud, stately, and majestic step, where are they? why have they vanished? All trickery of the dealer, says the purchaser; they can make any brute appear valuable for a short time. We say it is not the dealer, but the purchaser, who is in fault; it is his business to know his own abilities, and buy only such horses as will suit them; or should he be ignorant of this, let him consult those who are better acquainted with these subjects than himself, and then he will find himself much more frequently better suited, and no blame attached unnecessarily to either the horse or the seller. Many of the buyers of these horses fancy their grooms riding them will keep up this splendid action; this may do where the groom really understands the style of riding these horses require, (which very few do) and he rides it much more than yourself; but you will always find the horse has cunning enough, not only to adapt himself to the riding of the person which is least fatigued to himself, but where much rode by two different persons, one of whom rides him on the haunch and the other off, he will look like two dif-

ferent animals when mounted by the one and the other, with the one he will be all spirit and fire, with the other he will be dull, heavy, and dispirited. With horses for harness the same fault is eternally occurring. We know a gentleman who bought a pair of horses with fine high action to draw his carriage (a large town coach) ; they certainly were handsome good horses, and used as horses of this description ought to be, would have lasted some time. But instead of merely making a parade of these horses, and only calling about town in the morning, and driving to St. Stephen's, when wishing to make a grand show to his brother members, these poor brutes were made to come eleven miles along a hilly road in the morning with eight or nine persons besides luggage, make all the calls thought necessary by the family, go to the House of Commons, and return to the country again at night very frequently. At the end of six months, where was their flesh, their gaiety, and action ? where was the show for three hundred guineas ? He could not use either of them any longer, and they were sold for the enormous price of twenty-five pounds ; to this day he wreaks vengeance on the dealer who so shamefully took him in ; he will not hear that they were improperly treated, rather we suspect from obstinacy, as he changed his coachman ; this was the fruits of not suiting horse and work to one another, though the work was certainly more than any pair of horses ought to perform. Another gentleman, whose work was by no means hard, purchased a pair of horses with this action. His coachman did not understand driving them, and they soon lost their show ; but as he was a quiet man, and had the good sense not to attempt more than he could do ; he did not spoil them further or totally ruin them by knocking them about ; they therefore kept their condition, and with another coachman, who thoroughly understood making horses step in parade order, they might by practice be brought back to their original step. Here let us guard you against allowing either coachman or groom to attempt making horses step out of their usual gait, where they do not understand it ; neither should they, generally speaking, be allowed such severe bits as they commonly are, grooms particularly ; more horses are destroyed by these being improperly used, and servants pretending to more knowledge than they possess, than from any other cause. If you really are a horseman, you know how to appreciate a modest groom, who is willing to receive orders and obey your instructions, and this is generally the groom who really knows his business pretty well. Those who are not horsemen, take care that you really have a

groom that does know his business ; get him from a real horseman, who gives him the character of an invaluable servant. Above all things avoid the one who knows everything *according to his own account*, because you will find him a mere pretender, his own statement is all ; but you will soon discover a man's merely telling you he is perfection, will not make him so, and that he is a bigotted thick headed conceited fellow, who really does not know anything, and from being too opiniated never will, and that no one who is a horseman will give him the character of being a groom, but fortunately for himself, and unfortunately for his employer, he can find some one more modest than himself, or one who really is, if possible, less versed in stable tactics. In a former part of this work, we have pointed out some of the evils attending these pests, and the extra expense as well as annoyance, attending their being employed in your stables, and there we have also mentioned the good groom with his saving ; there it applied to the food and other requisites for the horses, here, to horse flesh and the horses themselves ; in the stable, when at exercise or at work, be about them when they will, they are always injuring and depreciating their value, recollect, this, we say, is the conceited stobleman, who would make you believe he knows every thing, young grooms who do not think they know every thing, and who are not above being told, are valuable in many stables, but in every one are much more so than the knowing stableman, the one, willing to receive instruction, will one day make a groom, the other, never. We have mentioned that respectable dealers mostly buy their horses in the country ; but we do not mean to infer that they are all first rate or respectable dealers who do so, some screw dealers do this also, many of them attending fairs for the express purpose of picking up this kind of horse, and those of an inferior class for machiners. Going over a dealer's stable of some eminence a short time since, we pointed out some serious objections to two or three horses (which were shewn to us on account of their beautiful condition), observing, were we purchasers, that would be our objection, as the horse could not last long, they at once acknowledged we were right, and they had not seen it before, but replied that while there was one fool to buy them, there ever would be another, and that there were plenty others who, fortunately, would be less likely to detect the fault than themselves. The greater part of the dealers buy their horses of one set of dealers only in the country, each of the London dealers employing a certain dealer in particular districts, who again employ others to

buy up all the horses of a particular class in their neighbourhood and at the different little fairs. The town dealer is then sent to, when a given number are collected, and goes down to either take all, or reject such as he thinks will not suit his purpose, when the next class of dealer is sent to, and so on in succession, when those which are rejected by all his customers are taken to some fair, or perhaps the first appointment is made for a large fair, when the dealers each buy in the succession of the class of horse they require, the first offer being the same as mentioned when the dealers go to their home. The town dealer merely looks to condition, and fashion of outline and action; for the rest he relies upon his agent, to whom he returns such as may not prove sound. These agents dare not sell a horse before their London buyers have rejected them, who always take care to be down long before the Fair commences; large ones, such as Horncastle and Howden, a month or six weeks; those who wait for the fair, find only very inferior horses left.

BUYING AT FAIRS.

For any one to go to a fair expecting to do better than with the dealer at home is an absurdity; at such places there is no responsibility, the dealers are itinerants, whom you cannot find again, the horses are more made up, more trickery and deception is carried on, and only the refuse reach these markets, and dealers themselves are sometimes taken in when tempted out of their usual routine of traffic by a bargain. It is therefore presumption when these men, accustomed to the confusion, hubbub and chicanery of these places, constantly buying, always on the alert, aware that every opportunity is taken of cheating them, possessed of their low cunning, almost living in these places and always buying, are frequently taken in, it is not to be expected, that a man who merely buys a horse now and then for his own use, can go into such places and do that which the dealer who lives by it can only effect by trick, *get a bargain*. The man, not a dealer, who goes to these places and does not pay more than he would at home for a similar horse is a lucky fellow, he has put into a lottery where there are hardly any thing but blanks, and *by pure accident*, (mistake not, pride not yourself on your horse knowledge, because the wheel of fortune has revolved by chance in your favour,) have drawn a prize. There are very few stage coach and post masters who can make it worth their while to buy horses at

fairs, even where they require a great many, and those only screws and lame ones, yet they find it better worth their while to buy of dealers in their neighbourhood. Were they what they call purchase their own, they pay one dealer high wages to be what they term their buyer, finding the horses then are cheaper to them by more than the difference of the wages than where they purchase themselves. It is not as some may suppose, that business prevents their being able to attend the fairs themselves, this they might generally do, and sometimes are there as idlers, while their men are buying; some of the repository keepers who deal cannot buy at fairs, but keep buyers to attend, either with themselves or without them. Nothing delights a country dealer more than to take in a London dealer, not in their connection; it affords them a subject of conversation and merriment from the time it happens till the next one, (which is considered cleverer, obliterates it for a time, at last to be revived in a string over their bottle, when several of these fair dealers meet together to laugh over their victims,) except it is that of taking in what they term a knowing one, a person who goes to a fair to get a bargain.

IS THERE HONOUR AMONGST THIEVES?

While waiting in the neighbourhood of Lincolnshire, being there one or two days prior to the horses coming to the fair, we recognised a dealer from Northamptonshire, who told us of his connection once with a London dealer who employs buyers, and who he considered in some way or other had behaved ill to him, and who he was determined to pay off, as he termed it, the first opportunity, they met at G— fair, when he told the buyer who came down with his master, if he would manage to keep out of the way and let Northamptonshire just sell his master two horses, he would give him a certain sum of money; this precious buyer did so, Northamptonshire sold the two horses which turned out nearly as he anticipated, one died on the road home, the other did not quite realise his expectation for it reached London and lived two days after; his eyes brightened as he told the tale, his features showing more expression than dealers generally do, when he added, "confound that second horse, had he lived I should have been so vexed; do you know I felt better pleased at serving him out, than if I had made five hundred pounds, not that there was much trouble in doing it, for he knew nothing about buying,

but it was such a good way of telling him he did not know any thing about his business, and nothing vexes a dealer more." You are also, as we observed before, very likely to get an old town horse remade up to pass as a fresh country horse for the London market.

GROUND YOUNG.

Sometime back a Captain G., late of the life guards, came up to a friend of ours and asked him if he had ever seen any horse like the one that a dealer was then passing on; our friend said, why its your old chesnut. Captain G. replied, yes it is, but the best joke is, M., the dealer, came up to me just now in Park-lane, recommending the horse to me as a five year old and just the horse to suit me as a hunter. I knew the horse in a moment, but did not say any thing to him, don't you? and for the fun I will send all the regiment to see him. It really was a horse which not only had belonged to Captain G., who was the last man in the regiment to whom he belonged, prior to that he had belonged to one or other of the officers of that regiment for at least fifteen years. He was a very particular marked horse, and could not be well mistaken by any one who had previously seen him. However, to make assurance doubly sure, Captain G. traced him through the various hands from the time of his parting with him back to M., the horse had been bishoped, and all that could be done to alter him, and had he not been such a strongly marked horse would have passed without suspicion; this is partly the reason why particular marked horses are so much disliked; we mentioned before, the annoyance to which purchasers of second-hand horses were subjected from persons making acquaintance, who knowing the horse prior to his being in the possession of his present master. Particular marked ones being more easily recognised, are much more likely to be the innocent introducers of these annoyances, and therefore have fewer buyers; those who buy first-hand horses looking forward to one day wanting to sell when they are tired of them, and the users of second-hand horses not liking to buy their acquaintance with them, there are always fewer competitors, and still fewer dealers purchasers of them, they being more likely to be detected in the tricks they play with them. It is no wonder, therefore, that they do all they can to prevent their getting into use by keeping up the absurd prejudices against them, and from their never hardly buying them in London, and then only when they are well known as superior horses

and have had some well known aristocrat or sportsman as their proprietor, their representations are more readily attended to, yet with all their care, they are occasionally caught with an old town tender in the country.

There is yet another reason for not buying of any other than a respectable dealer, and not getting a town horse; these are likely at some time or other to have been thoroughly knocked up, ridden or driven to a stand still, and where this has been done the horse is ever after cowed, so that he will give in the moment he is getting a little leg weary. Here we will mention a very absurd and cruel practice frequently resorted to when horses are not easily pulled up; that of galloping them up hill, or through heavy ground till they are exhausted. This is the plan resorted to by cowardly horsemen to cure their horses of running away this barbarity ruins the horse, breaks his spirit, and makes him worthless, if not a complete cripple; any horse that has been served once thus, will never after be esteemed by a horseman, his way of going is unpleasant, his action is no longer sprightly, and he seems to the horseman as if he was going to stop at every step. When horses do not stop from the mismanagement of the rider, the poor beast is ever taxed with being a run-away. He has no wish for this extra labour, and only keeps to the pace from misapprehending your intentions. When treating on bits and running away, this will be more clearly seen.

Horses which have been at post or stage coach work are also to be avoided; you may find them go pretty well the first twelve or fourteen miles, after this they begin to get troublesome; get them twenty, and they will generally stand still to be flogged.

In short any horse which has been dead beat, from whatever cause, prior to seven years old, is worthless to any person whose work is irregular with occasional long journeys, and to the horseman is ever uncomfortable in his gait, from the circumstance as before-mentioned of his ever appearing as if each step was to be the last.

If he has had the rare good luck to escape till eight years old and has not been thoroughly knocked up, it will take a great deal to beat him to a stand-still, if you can possibly effect it, as they will go till they drop if not die rather than give in.

If you have ever hired horses you most probably have had a horse which has been used to particular stages, or knocked up, and if you have had such a one given you, you must well recollect the misery you travelled in, and if you went beyond twelve miles, the increased

unpleasantness of the animal at almost every yard. All the risks which we have related have to be run with second-hand horses, and many more which will be shewn when we come to warranty, &c., but that the sellers will make them look as well, and as much like first hand ones as possible is to be expected ; is it not done with every other second-hand article, and can we expect less with horses ? Let the dealer do this fairly, and he then has plenty of advantage over general purchasers, and that numerous class of persons would-be judges. But bishoping and other alterations of the kind are a complete robbery, as well as an act of cruelty and injustice to the animal, he gets worked sometimes after this operation at a very old age, as if he were only the age his teeth indicated when he was bought. Some of the plans resorted to, to hide lameness, such as beaning, &c., are also villainous.

It would be highly ridiculous to suppose the dealer would take any pains to point out to the would-be judge the defects of the horse they choose, neither can we expect that they will not try to hide all infirmities as much as possible, and this they know there are many ways of effecting by a temporary cessation from pain, and this is far better than beaning, which is making the horse go sound for a show by creating as much pain in the sound foot as the lame one. This is generally effected by driving a sharp cornered stone between the sole of the foot and the shoe, it is very small and not to be seen.

When we used the term makes the horse go sound for a show, we only meant their way of going would deceive the unpractised, (those who are not acquainted with all the arts of horse dealing, and who are not eternally in the market,) a momentary glance will tell the thoroughly initiated in all the mysteries of horse craft, or if the ground is hard the sound of the step is a sufficient tell-tale without seeing. But we will give the dealers credit for not having, where they find that they really have a horseman to deal with, half the effrontery of many other trades in trying to persuade you that things are different to what you see them. The reverse is generally the case with the dealer ; he orders the horse in at once, making some sort of apology, asks you if you will see any other out, and never for one instant urges that you are mistaken, nor will he fix you with an unsound horse where you leave it to him, but with those who pretend to know, all responsibility is taken off his shoulders, and he thinks this is a good opportunity to plant a screw.

Still though a very numerous class of dealers are no worse than

they are generally supposed to be, yet some few act fairly, but cannot altogether keep from being much injured by misapprehension on the part of the purchaser, from his having fancied himself a much better judge than he was, and taken a horse not at all calculated for the work he was going to put him to, if fit for any purpose at all ; or he has gone into a yard fancying himself a match for all parties, and bought a horse without a warranty or recommendation, then finding he was not the judge he expected, his pride is offended, and he immediately says the seller was a rogue, and did all he could to take him in ; while if he considered properly, he would recollect the dealer far from taking the usual pains of other tradesmen to recommend his goods, did not take the trouble to say a word beyond desiring the horse might be led out. This is frequently the case with the respectable dealers, where they sell an unsound horse or changeling themselves, though as we before stated, this drudgery or lowest part of their trade they leave to the father, or send them to the repositories, and even there seldom are they sent in their own name, but a fictitious one or a father's is used. This answers two purposes ; it enables them to go and bid for their own horse, thus enhancing its value, as buyers frequently remark, if the horse is worth so much to him as a dealer, it surely must be worth my while to give a trifle more, as it never would answer his purpose to buy and keep a horse for a guinea or two ; and this you are the more likely to suppose from other dealers of his class and repository keepers bidding at the same time, but all except the biddings of the owner of the horse are fictitious, these are only assisting one another. The string which connects these classes and makes them hang together, has been already pretty well explained, in addition to which the dealer occasionally sends to the commission yard a horse he does not like to "stand by," acknowledge as his own, either on account of the sum allowed for it in exchange, or some screw.

After all that has been said of buying of a dealer, we would, and we are not singular in this opinion, far rather do so than of a gentleman ; there is no rule without an exception, or we should have said there is no such thing as a gentleman in horse-dealing ; and here when we use the term, we mean those who from circumstances bought to be straight-forward in their dealings, and not submit to even the same gloss (we will not say artifice) of the dealer, instead of resorting to more untruths than any but the very lowest grade will submit to ; yet sorry as we are, truth obliges us to confess that they so frequently

do, that any person who has had any experience in buying would rather buy of any dealer than of them. Gentlemen should remember that what they say on these occasions ought to be, if they are not always taken as truths, and therefore they should be above resorting to any artifice. But how common is it for them when parting with a horse for so trivial a circumstance that no other person would heed it, if ever discover the same fault, to represent they are over-horsed, which is the only cause, otherwise they would not part with any of their horses on any account, while in reality they will have to buy another when this is sold, if they are not in actual treaty for more than one to replace it. Nervous people are ever parting with their horses for imaginary faults, were they to state the fact, is I am very nervous, and he does not suit me: try him, it is ten to one if the party trying found he stumbled or shied as the seller fancied.

EYES AND SHYING.

Here we take the opportunity of observing horses frequently get condemned for shying, very improperly and most absurdly; should he look at any thing, however slightly, it is termed shying. Horses do this from a variety of causes. Their eyes do not see all objects the same, like ourselves they have more and less dilated pupils without it amounting to disease. Where they are too much one way or the other, of course disease does exist, and the horse is unsound; where the pupil is dilated sufficiently for it to amount to unsoundness, the horse does not merely look at the object and quietly pass to the other side of the road to make way for whatever he thinks larger than it is, for in cases of dilated pupils this is the case, or he is near-sighted. But from the dilation being very great he sees the object very much larger than it is and therefore nearer, whereupon he jumps quickly to the other side of the road. This alludes to where horses shy without being made to do so by the violence of the rider as described under that head in our first number, where a bridle is also mentioned to prevent it. Those eyes with dilated pupils are the most deceitful, they are generally fine clear prominent eyes, and such as those who have not had far more experience in horse buying and using than generally falls to the lot of most persons even keeping large studs, are most likely to prefer, it requiring a great deal of experience to detect the various degrees of dilation, to know whether it is of consequence, if they can see that any does exist. Nor can they those

eyes which are most subject to cataracts, or those in which inflammation has existed, all of which a true horseman sees at once, unless it has gone the length of leaving large cataracts behind, and even then they are often deceived, a white wall will hide it from the uninitiated, so will the dealer's man by throwing the shadow of some white part of his dress over it if no other light shadow can be easily obtained.

GENTLEMEN SELLING STUDS.

Gentlemen also resort to another artifice for which they would condemn the dealer; in sending their studs to the hammer under the pretence of selling the whole, representing they are selling it off not intending to hunt again; they are going on the continent; they are going to give up their carriage; or that they sell at the end of every hunting season and buy fresh at the commencement of the next. These are the worst kind of dealers for the inexperienced to fall in with, they being more likely to be taken in by them than he who publicly trades in horses for his livelihood, and where the private seller says he buys young horses at the beginning of every hunting season, for the express purpose of making hunters of them to sell them when perfect, and buy fresh young ones to break them as hunters again; be not deceived, all those who hunt know too well the value of a hunter acquainted with his work and country to sell him, so long as he answers their purpose; he must be a very young huntsman or rather follower of the hounds, who prefers the uncertainty of a young horse for this purpose to one who knows his business, and unless he is a horse dealer, although he may please to confer upon himself some other denomination, rely on it he would not sell a good practised horse that pleased him but to make money; and now let me ask you if this is not a dealer who buys and sells for profit, what he is? If a gentleman is changing from hunting in one country to that of another very dissimilar, that is another thing, for the horse invaluable in one country becomes almost worthless in another; this is an exception to what we have said above, and then if you want to hunt a country similar to that they have been used to, you may get the truth, and find you have a gentleman to deal with, and a horse to suit you. These are all despicable frauds beneath the gentleman, (we beg pardon for using the term, as the true gentleman would not lend himself to such meanness, but as the world in courtesy allows them to pass as such we will, however improperly, allow the term),

to whom honour ought to be worth more than a few pounds, and will it make one hundred pounds a year difference to him whether he resorts to artifice or sends his horses fairly to the hammer. As the time of year is now fast approaching when this sort of trickery is carried on, we will inform the more artless buyer how he may be caught. A person having a large stud, sends several horses with some such representation as that we have mentioned, with the intention of selling all the most worthless of his stud, the maimed, the halt, and the blind. When a stud is sent none of the horses are warranted, but to give an idea that the whole are sound and very valuable horses, two or three are bought in at very high prices, then a screw which is really sold to the highest bidder, who most probably has given a great deal more than it is worth, fancying as the others brought such high prices it must be a bargain at less than was as he imagines, given for the former ones; again comes out another or two not intended for sale, unless at very high prices: and when they have raised curiosity and anxiety amongst the persons assembled, so that they expect they are likely to get a price out comes another screw, this again is sold and so on till finished; sometimes a dozen horses are sent to sell one or two. We admire the plan on these occasions of saying in the catalogue, the following horses, the property of a gentleman or nobleman, as if it was to be kept a secret, when care is taken that the very lowest stable boy about the yard may inform you to whom they belong. Commission stable keepers and horse dealers are employed on these occasions to buy the horses in, as more likely to induce other persons to bid high for the screws when they see dealers, as they fancy, giving such high prices.

BITER BIT.

Two horses very much alike some time back were sent by a *gentleman* from Wales to a repository, a friend of his, the son of a late judicial baron was to see them placed in proper stalls. One of them he was to let go for anything that was offered for him, the other he was to buy in at a very great price. This horse was to be brought out first as a bait. The day before the sale he went to see that they were all right and the time when they would be brought out. On the sale day he was prevented attending, so sent his coachman, with full instructions how to act. The first horse was brought out, and sur-

prised the coachman, being so different to what he expected ; however he could only obey orders and bought him in. The second came out and sold for a trifle. The coachman took the bought in horse home, who told his master he suspected he had bought in the worst horse, and made such a representation as induced him to go to the stable and inspect the horse. He now blamed the coachman for having made such a mistake as to bring the very horse home that they ought to have sold and went to the auctioneer about it, when it was discovered some one had changed the horses into different stalls so that the last horse came first and the first last. It could not be accounted for although guessed at, and the dealers were blamed as great rogues for having merely done that, which they wanted to effect with others. They wanted to get a bargain (sell a horse for more than he was worth)—they were taken in by selling a good horse cheap and having a bad horse, that they wanted to sell at any price, back again. The dealers got a good horse cheap. Now we will account for this *mistake*. In the yard where the gentleman's horses stood was a notorious dealer. The coachman got talking about the horses at the repository, and early on the sale morning he sent a person to reverse the horses and another to buy the good one.

We do not pretend to justify the dealer, but just beg to ask the gentleman alluded to which was the worst trick—that which he was to play or the dealer? As probably he will be a bad judge in his own cause (although learned in the law) let him get an impartial person to decide for him.

Buyers are guilty of the following folly amongst others. We have frequently noticed when a screw, the cast off property of a nobleman has been brought out, persons flocking to contend for it, and buying at far more than it was worth, while valuable horses, the property of a Mr. Nobody, were being past by without notice, or quietly falling bargains into the hands of dealers, who also give higher prices for noblemen's and known horses than for others, being aware that it will be publicly known that they bought such and such horses at certain prices, and that it will bring persons about their yards to see the horses ; also that these horses not only will pay them by a profit on themselves, but very commonly they manage to sell all their horses with any resemblance to the ones thus bought at the same prices, as the same horses, so that if they do not, as is very frequently the case, make much profit on the real (the price they have bought them at being known), they do on their substitutes. Buyers have themselves

only to blame for this, the dealers here doing no more than that which all other tradesmen do ; nor would they make these false representations were the buyer to purchase the horse upon his own merits and not from the fictitious ones which he may derive in the estimation of those who choose to fancy his having carried or drawn this or that person can make him any better, and why the notoriety of the master should give eclat or add to the value of the horse has always puzzled us ; but so it is.

The presumption that a nobleman's or gentleman's horse, where a large stud is kept, must be better than many others is good, for in the first place they generally pay higher prices, a great assistance in obtaining the best, and take more pains to procure first-rate ones, neither are their horses likely to be so hard worked, from their generally having several horses to do the work of one ; while he who only keeps one horse makes him do the work of several. It is only the screws out of those studs of which we have been speaking. But why the horses of those characters who have made themselves notorious by their villainies should be prized more highly than if they had belonged to those who have been content to move in the even tenor of their way, it is difficult to account.

The horse that Thurtell had became as notorious as his master, an extra value was set upon him for having belonged to such a character, and if you happened to go into any yard where he was, the curiosity was immediately pointed out to you. A horse of Probert's the same. So it seems the slave of any one notorious, whether for good or bad deeds is immediately raised in value, and of course the estimation of the public, is this because it affords a subject for conversation occasionally to those who are deficient in funds of this kind ? or that they imagine that all men who become public, from whatever cause, must have a good horse ? We have made these observations to try and induce you not to buy a horse from any supposed virtues derived from his late master, but on his own merits. That there can be no good horse of a bad colour is an old axiom. Get a proper shaped horse with the requisite quantity of breed, and one at the same time that has not been over worked too soon, and sound, or only some trifles as bar to this terrific word, and we will answer for it his action is good, and he will do quite as well as if he had been used by any one, be he who he may. One word on soundness. A few years back a friend of ours, not altogether ignorant of horse matters, but who never could understand what a warranty or a sound horse was, requested us to write to him our ideas. We did so.

He has just returned it to us, informing us it is so much better than any one he has hitherto obtained upon the subject, though he has purchased every book upon warranty as it has come out, but none are so perfect as our own, and therefore as a duty we owe our readers we ought to publish it, as the others are all more difficult of solution ; in fact, he does not see in what way it could be imposed, we shall take his advice at an early opportunity of presenting it to them ; he also says he never should have returned it had we not commenced this publication, and he thought it would be a valuable and necessary addition.

We certainly did intend to explain the meaning of a warranty in its place, but his opinion has made us determine to do so earlier than we otherwise should have done.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Many letters of complaint having been sent to us, on account of the portrait of the Darley Arabian not having been given to our subscribers with the sixth number. We have seen the publisher on the subject, who requests us to observe he has not let one number pass through his hands without the promised portrait, and that wherever it is held back, the parties doing so are guilty of a fraud, and the publisher will feel obliged to any one having been thus deceived if they will send him the name and address of the party who supplied them with the sixth number without the portrait.

B. C. can have an interview with the Editor upon sending a note to the Publisher's stating his reasons for wishing it.

Those gentlemen who have called at the Publisher's to request an interview may obtain it by leaving a note expressive of their business.

X. cannot return the horse for vice ; any horse under the circumstances might have done the same. By being very quiet with him for a few days, he will get over the fright, and be as "good-tempered" as you found him previously.

D. R. to answer all his question would take up too much room for a notice ; we shall therefore only answer here that horses do not always mean to kick when they lay back their ears. He will find the rest of his queries answered in the body of a number shortly.

J. F.'s letter should have been inserted but it contains many inaccuracies. There are dealers who profess the Jewish religion.

A HORSE OF TWO SIZES.

So many fancies have the buyers of horses who are only imaginary judges, and so absurd are many of their observations and prejudices, that we can only laugh at the little artifices resorted to by dealers to get them to buy a horse they have just rejected. We have seen the following farce played off. A gentleman after seeing a horse out and trying him, approved of him in colour, shape, and everything but his height, and here he unfortunately happened to fail by nearly one inch. Nothing could persuade him the horse could possibly answer his purpose; the dealer exerted all his eloquence in vain, the fatal half-inch was an insurmountable barrier to a deal; at last when the dealer found every other chance was over, he told the gentleman of a horse the very counterpart of the one he had just seen, except that he was the height required, and he expected him in the yard every instant; his man was bringing him from the country, and ought to have arrived an hour before: if the gentleman would look in to-morrow, he would be sure to see him. While they were thus talking, (for the dealer took care to keep his customer amused long enough for his purpose,) the horse expected came along the street, hooded, cloathed, knee boots, and all the other paraphernalia used in travelling.

The dealer pretended great reluctance at shewing a horse just off a journey, requested that he might have at least one days rest. The customer was inexorable; the dealer then remarked, he dare say the gentleman knew what a horse was and would make allowances, after much measuring the horse was bought, it being the exact height. Need we tell you it was the very horse rejected as too low, while the gentleman and the dealer were in conversation, the horse was led cloathed as for a journey, out at one end of the yard and brought in at the other, so as to meet the gentleman. A horse something like him only a little lower was placed in his stall, so the gentleman upon going to the stall to measure the one in it, found the one which had just come into the yard was the very height required. This certainly was trickery, but as the purchaser always used to say it was the best horse he ever had in life, and never found it was not the right height, it proved it was only fastidiousness on his part, and the ruse could not injure him. If you really wish the horse to be a particular height, and it is of consequence that he be exact, you can have him

warranted that size in the receipt. You will then have leisure to measure him at home, if he does not fill the standard at the required number of inches, he is returnable. Yet we cannot conceive an inch, or even two, of any consequence even as a match if the horse answers in all other respects.

CHAUNTERS.

In a former number we exposed the trade of the chaunter, but a case confirming our statement having been brought during the week before the Lord Mayor, we cannot help copying it out of the newspapers of the day, at the same time observing the papers of the same day on which the police report appeared, contained no less than eight chaunters' advertisements.

“A gentleman applied to the Lord Mayor for a warrant against three persons who, he said, had conspired to defraud him, and had eventually completely robbed him by a plan which he had been given to understand was now very much practised. The applicant had read in a newspaper an advertisement stating that a gentleman had a very fine horse to dispose of because it was indeed much too fine an animal for him to ride, and that it was to be seen near Smithfield at the stable of a tradesman of respectability. The description of the horse was so excessively captivating, that the applicant went off to have a look at it, and by the eyeing it all round, and taking the opinion of his groom, who thought it a crack article, agreed to give forty-five guineas for it. He had, however, no more than thirty-five guineas about him, but the owner or chaunter believing the gentleman to be a gentleman, told him to take the horse and see whether it would answer, and if there was no objection, the rest of the money could be given after the experiment. This was agreed to, the shopkeeper vouching for the character of the horse. There was a third party who was ready to vouch for all the rest, and the purchaser sent his groom afterwards to ride home the horse. The moment the groom gave the animal the spurs, off it went, to be sure, but with such puffing and blowing and wheezing as astonished the rider. At length he was obliged to make a full stop, as the horse began to bleed violently at the nose. The applicant, finding that he had been imposed upon most villainously, sent the horse to the stable, and demanded his money. ‘Oh, very well,’ replied the person whom the applicant’s

messenger saw, ' if the horse doesn't suit the money shall be returned, certainly. Leave the horse, and master will be here in the course of the day, and all shall be right.' This proposition was agreed to ; the horse was left in the stable, and a call was given for the cash in the evening, but neither cash, nor horse, nor master, nor man was to be seen.

" The shopkeeper, however, appeared, but he assumed a very different character from that which he at first seemed to have. Although in the first instance he said that he had known the seller for five years, and that the description of the horse was accurate, he now declared that he only knew the man from the fact of his going into the shop and occasionally using the stable.

" The Lord Mayor.—I regret very much that this case is out of the jurisdiction of a magistrate. There are great difficulties about it, but perhaps if you would indict you may be benefitted.

" John Forrester the officer said that the same horse had been sold at the west end of the town last week, and that in all probability it had been sold eight or ten times. It was only fit for selling, not for going, as the chaunters themselves said, and the imposition just described was practised every day."

A PLAN TO SUPPRESS CHAUNTING.

Since our first observations on *this respectable class of tradesmen*, we have had numerous letters calling upon us to devise some plan to put them down, but since Wednesday last they have been more numerous than ever. A plan we had devised, but where to put it into execution was the difficulty. However from this time of year being the harvest of these fellows, and the increased call upon us for assistance, we have requested our publisher, who has kindly offered to second our exertions in exterminating the horse chaunting, by keeping a book at his office, into which every one having a horse to sell may enter it, together with the name and address of the owner. Any persons wanting horses will learn all particulars respecting the horses, and where those for sale are to be seen ; and it will be our fault if any one coming to this office gets a chaunter's horse.

It is requested gentlemen sending by post, descriptions of the horse they want to sell, or wishing to purchase, will be particular in paying the postage of their letters, as there will not be a **SINGLE CHARGE in any way to either BUYER OR SELLER.**

We would also recommend gentlemen advertising to direct their advertisements to our publisher's office, Temple Bar, sending their address ; and those gentlemen who come to his office may rely on it they will not be sent after any of the chaunter's horses. At present hardly any gentlemen will advertise their horses from having experienced the difficulty of selling from an advertisement : the reason for this we also pointed out in a former number, but doing it through our publisher, or rather the address to him, will do away with all the objections, thus throwing open a ready channel of communication between the sellers and buyers of horses ; one which the nefarious practices of these fellows had almost, if not entirely, closed ; for with the exception of the chaunter, no one hardly ever sold by advertisement. It is difficult to believe, but no less true, that a man doing no inconsiderable business as agent for other persons, occasionally supplies a horse to be chaunted. That is, he is the seller in the background, others appearing as principals : to read our former observations on chaunting will explain how this is managed.

In many ways the editor will have to incur heavy expences, but so anxious is he to put down these pests, and make the horse dealers as a body respectable, that he will take the necessary charges upon himself most cheerfully.

At present there is really so much obliquy attending the business, and as a body horse dealers are held in such contempt, that we do not wonder at there being so few respectable sellers of horses. As a body we believe we have said it before, and now repeat it that they deserve being held in full as much contempt as they are, yet the more respectable ones are the most ill-used set of men in existence, our reasons shall shortly be given, when we hope their mode of doing business will be appreciated as it ought, and that the others who prefer to wallow in infamy, may be left to take in those who are such fools as to deal with them, and they will shortly find themselves compelled either to change their conduct or their business.

DEALERS (*continued.*)

There are such things as men calling themselves horse dealers, and trading in horses to cover, and be an introduction to other business, and these dealers usually have not the largest studs though they have several horses, and they frequently stand out for the highest, we may say, enormous prices, knowing they have certain customers.

who must come to them and give whatever sum they please to ask, and having a given set of these completely under their thumbs, they treat all comers to their yard rather cavalierly, particularly if they happen to mention they want a horse under the price they are in the habit of keeping them, seeming by their manner to say take it, or leave it, as you please ; I am as independent as you, and if you do not buy of me it is not of the least consequence, I'll make some one else pay the price asked for him. From getting hold of imprudent men by advancing money on their post obits, bills, &c., where they are sure to be paid one day, they force them to take horses at prices far beyond their values. These money borrowers are generally squanderers and leaders of certain circles, where they meet others thoughtless as themselves, and to whom bragging of the large sums paid for this horse and that, excites an emulation to do the same amongst these without any consequence attached to themselves but who fancy they assume it by giving larger sums than some persons, and they either go by recommendation at once to the golden dealer, or try other yards first, but at last resort to one where all the horses are high priced. There are some famed for buying one or two horses at very high prices at country fairs, taking good care that every one should know it, or if every one does not, it is not for want of paid puffs of every kind. The prices named are always exaggerated. Besides dealers occasionally manage thus, when they buy—Well Yorkshire, if I give you so much for the (one, two, or three) horses (which they wish to give a fictitious value to,) you shall give me a receipt for that sum, and then give me so much back again, and they even get these receipts where they only pay for the horses with bills. Should any one demur at the price the receipt is shewn, sometimes the sight of it is volunteered without a word having been said about the charge. Really giving high prices and these fictitious high prices also pays another way. We have often had occasion to mention that the assumed judges are extremely numerous, the real as few, these last then get those horses which are really of value from their shape and action, while very inferior ones are passed off to the more numerous class of indifferent judges. Is not the buyer more, or at any rate equally culpable with the dealer? he being well aware that those persons who come to him would not look at a horse under a certain price, and that if he did not ask these enormous sums the pretended judges would not buy ; and that their discounting customers would not stand such pilfering so easily. We knew one yard where

from half to quite as much again, and sometimes six or seven times is given as at any other in London, and we have seen ninety-five guineas paid for a horse which actually was not worth (would not have brought) in any other place more than from eighteen to twenty pounds, and could no where else have been found but in the lowest yards. In an earlier number we have shewn horses of the highest form and action cannot be obtained at paltry sums ; and where the highest prices only charged for these in proportion to the difficulty of obtaining them, which would be in the proportion with which they approached perfection, it would be fair enough, and where the seller did not know his horses value, it would be the dealer's fault if he did not get him for as little as he was asked, nor is he to blame for getting his value when he sells him again, but we do think the public are much to blame for giving such immense prices to one dealer for the same horses that they could get of other dealers equally if not more respectable for so much less ; for after all it rests with them. He who wants to sell has a right to ask.

"The worth of any thing,
Is just as much as it will bring."

I believe is older than Hudibras. We have shewn horses of a certain form must fetch large sums to indemnify the breeder, and the dealers through whose hands he passes together with the risks and expences. One dealer in London hardly ever has less than one hundred and twenty horses as he informs us, (and we know he must have nearly that number,) at his stables in London, besides those at his place in the country, preparing to fill the London stalls as they sell off. He who wants to buy, unless a judge of the article, should take some one with him whom he knows to be one, and not allow himself to imagine all those who keep a horse, or many who buy and sell these animals, those particularly who are dealers under another name, know sufficiently to assist you in purchasing. An old man well known as a professional nurse, the father of a celebrated steeple-chase rider, we were surprised to find never bought or recommended any horse that was not well known from past deeds. We happened to be in a dealer's yard where he came in with a gentleman looking for a horse to run for a hunters stake, we in some way got into conversation upon their business, the nurse was strongly recommending a chesnut mare which had already won one or two cups, when some question was put to ourselves, we pointed out a bay one which had never been tried as being much more likely to win ; the nurse immediately asked, what has it done

Nothing. The nurse turned his back immediately, finding several reasons why it could not win, and no reason why the chesnut should not. In our opinion we could have given abundant. They bought her. A friend of ours bought the bay at nearly half the price of the chesnut, to run for that very stake, which he carried off, leaving the chesnut far behind. You will always find there are plenty of knowing ones to find out that a horse which has won is a good horse and likely to win, and the horse that has done a great deal of work has been a good one; but there are very few who can tell you what an untried horse is likely to do, from his shape and action. We have known farmers take horses to a fair for sale, making up their minds before starting they would not take under a certain sum for them, but have been compelled to sell, to make up rent or some other pressing necessity, and when they have got you to offer the most you intend to give will say well, if you will give me so much, I will give you a receipt for the money and return the difference, we have known this frequently. A few months back from this proposition being made by a very respectable farmer who seemed to be above low trick, we asked him his reason; he said before leaving home he had sworn he would not sell it under the fictitious price, but that he much wanted a horse to put immediately to plough, a task which this three parts bred brown mare was unequal to, and he was compelled to sell her if he bought any other. We then asked how he came to think of such a way of cheating conscience, he replied, your dealers often make me give them a receipt for more than they leave in my hands, to make it appear the horse costs them more, and I am determined my receipt if shown shall not give me the lie at all events.' We have shown the dealers pretty well, though we have not yet quite done with them. This was a duty we owed our readers, having promised to do all we can towards making them horsemen, and without this we could not properly be understood in many parts of this work. We have shewn them, as a very erroneous opinion exists as to, we are very sorry to say, a very small portion of the dealers, while the greater portion of them cannot be too much held in contempt, and that the contumely they suffer is not half sufficient; that there are others (the smaller portion) justice requires should be better understood, and we feel a great pleasure in being the first of their champions, to prove that they act as fair as any other class of tradesmen, nay more, we could, only it would appear invidious, point out one at least who we have known in many instances act far more fairly.

We know to appear as their advocates would by many be considered as no enviable task, but we trust when our former pages have been carefully perused, and that which we have stated is well considered it will bring our readers to a conclusion, in favour of the respectable dealers and that it will only be wondered that some one has not before come forward in their behalf. That we have not tried to screen them will be allowed; we try to be just, we have no interest to serve, the cause of the horse is the one we profess, and try to adhere to. This we can only do by making all parties connected with horses as buyer and seller better acquainted with one another. Reader we will tell you; it is a bold assertion, but no less true; there is hardly any other, if any others than ourselves unless of their body, who is sufficiently acquainted with the trade in all its different branches, as a breeder, from the breeder in his rearing, breaking through the various gradations of dealers, and the different kinds of work have we followed the horse, even in the hands of the knacker (Horse slaughterer) we have not forsaken him; we love the horse, and will do him what service we can. Even every part of his tackle do we thoroughly know to the tongue of a buckle or the nail in the carriage, we have not neglected any thing, however important or mean, about him. This is easiest effected by making their masters thoroughly understand them, how to feed them and take care of them under every circumstance, and how to ride and drive them, also how to buy them; this last can only be effected by making him acquainted with those who deal in them. As we stated in our short introduction, it would take much time, nay years of toil and trouble, to labour through the books which have been published, out of some of which hardly *one wrinkle* could be earned, unless it was by the length of time taken to peruse that brought it. We know that all the accidents which arise are occasioned by masters not understanding the horse. If every one that used them did, there would not be any; or if those who do not, had nerve enough to be much more guided by their horse, they would hardly ever get into mistakes, we think we may say never, unless they use horses not calculated for them, young ones who do not know their business. Those who really know a great deal, and those who know nothing about a horse are upon an equality thus far. He who knows nothing never has a bad horse, being contented his horse is as good as other people's, so long as he gets his work done. He who knows a great deal will take care to get a good horse and keep him so. The fancied horseman is ever

changing and never suited ; after he has had them a little while they are rough and ever stumbling. This is very generally the fault of the would be horseman ; it is bad management has spoiled them.

KNOWING HORSEMAN.

A gentleman who prided himself on his horse knowledge, and who was constantly officiating as guardian (nurse) to his friends, and was ever followed by a crowd of those envious of his great talents in this way, and who looked up to him, bought a horse of a dealer (now dead, but who had a stable at the back of Lower Brook Street) ; it was a four-year old. He rode it a short time, then took it to the dealer, telling him it was quite an altered horse,—when he first had him, he rode light, gay, and spirited ; now he was dull, and his action heavy and shaky. He therefore wished the dealer to say what he would allow him for the horse in exchange, and he would call again in about a month or six weeks, when he proposed returning again to town, to see if he had any other that would suit. He called from time to time, but never saw any horse he liked for three months ; he then saw one which pleased him very much, and said he would try it. He brought it back, saying he was delighted with him, and he as well as some friends whom he had met, said there was *such a singular likeness*, that they should have taken it for *his old one, only that it was so much bigger*. He bought it, giving *sixty guineas and his old one* for it, as he imagined ; though he really had bought his old one again, now five years old, with the bloom ; the dealer all this time had kept him out of sight to get him in selling condition ; he had also been well rode.

Could the buyers of horses, and professed dealers be brought to understand one another properly, there is no doubt but the term horse dealer, instead of being interpreted as it now is, into every thing that is vile, might be considered more respectable ; or at best viewed in a more favourable light than many of the professions. This depends in a great measure on the dealers themselves, there are more respectable dealers now than there were a few years back, as they get better known they will be more resorted to, and the lower and more scamping set must either rise into respectability by an improvement in their conduct, or sink lower, if possible, than they at present are. Luckily ambition is planted in the breast of most men, and they are more inclined to climb than fall ; therefore now that

they have 'got one step on the ladder let them ascend, or we shall see others step in from a different class of society to take their places. The love of horses, and an ambition to have something to do with them seems inherent in man. We find every grade of society from the peer downwards, cannot help dabbling a little in horse-flesh. Those in the learned professions are not exempt, particularly lawyers, barristers, above all others fancy themselves judges. Dealers, whom we will allow to be better judges as to which set of men are best acquainted with the subject, say there is no class of men who assume so much, and know so little. They account for it two ways, first the lawyer thinks the dealer will be afraid of him, knowing he is acquainted with the law, and in the next they have a portion of their lives, and that too the most valuable, to obtain horse knowledge, in which they either have nothing or very little to do with the animal. They are considered the easiest prey, and from their fancied knowledge the best customers; though they seldom purchase first hand or the best kind of horse, except when a screw. Yet from fancying they know so much, they very generally purchase horses that cannot stand their work, and so are always in the horse market; they also often go to assist friends in purchasing when in want of horses; they imagining the lawyer must be a sufficient bugbear to frighten the dealer into honesty. We have known those tolerably well acquainted with the horse, get a friend in the law who would hardly know a horse from a feed of oats, go with them to pretend to buy a horse that the dealer might be frightened out of his evil ways, into honesty and good manners. This is a mistaken notion; if they would rather take in one man than another it is the lawyer; they have an antipathy, an intuitive spite against the whole fraternity. "I'll bring an action as a lawyer, it will cost me little."—"So you may," says the dealer, "I'll take care it costs me less." Do what you will they are more than a match for you, if they cannot beat you by hard swearing in court, they have some one to strike a docket against them, and thus foil you, and make you lose every thing after you have as you think beaten them, and they rise again better men than ever.

WITNESSES.

Some time back a dealer who has been a speculator in bank notes, not the old ladies in Threadneedle-street, we believe they are always worth twenty shillings; and glandered horses, by his profits on these

respectable transactions, increased his stud, and altered them into a different class of animals, we were going to say healthy, but as that would imply soundness, we will say free from the old disease, and far above them. He carried on a rolling trade, lawyers, sheriffs, and their officers were nothing to him, writ upon writ was served, still he was undaunted ; his opponents thought he never could get over them, they had such strong evidence ; some of the cases were as glaring as they were daring ; they went into court, in the first action his men got the day ; the next he was sure to be beat, it was such a daring thing, and so very plain ; again were the plaintiffs deceived, a gentleman proved that he was the breeder of the horse, and that he sold him to the dealer. This being sufficient for our purpose, we will not enumerate any more of the actions, but just state that this gentleman breeder had not long returned from Australia, where he had been sojourning seven years by his Majesty's command, and had never any more to do with the horse than you have. One of his witnesses, in another action, was in Newgate for trial at the time which he stated he had had some transactions with the dealer at some fair. And if report speaks true, the dealer kindly proved an alibi for this old crony of his, on purpose that he might return the compliment by assisting him out of a scrape in return. These are the men who are a disgrace to human nature, and who bring the horse dealers into contempt, and keep it mostly in the hands of low fellows, too many fancying it cannot be carried on at all without the lowest subterfuge and criminality. This is a mistake. It is not the business that is a disgrace to the man, be it what it may, but the man may be a disgrace to the humblest calling. Amongst these last we do reckon horse dealing ; it may be made one of the noblest and respectable, as it is ; it is one of the pleasantest and most captivating pursuits, this is shewn by the spirit with which every one enters into it. The nobleman does not think it a disgrace to descant upon the merits, and sell the meanest of his hacks, although he is aware the costermonger may at the same time be selling his thirty-shillinger to the knacker. Yet the nobleman would not condescend to sell any other thing personally, why is this ? Does it not prove a natural love of the horse and horsemanship ? and that were it not the fear of losing respectability, by being branded with that *now* most horrible of names, horse dealer, at present synonymous with horse stealer, many of the most respectable part of society would become members of the trade, and according to the account before given of the dealers' opinion of lawyers, many a good law

judge might be spoiled to become an indifferent one of horses. To the dealers we shall have again to return:

USEFUL KNOWLEDGE.

By this we have ever thought was meant, a knowledge of those truths most profitable to mankind, and more particularly those of every day's occurrence; with this view we hailed the Farmers' Series by the Society professing this intention, as a signal benefit to mankind. A few of the first numbers were brought to us by agent leman requesting us to give a candid opinion. We did so, but he did not bring us any more. Several times since the question has been put, we candidly answered what our opinion was of those we had seen, and that they were but few. One gentleman who professed to have something to do with the Society, said he supposed from the person to whom that part was given, we found the grammar perfectly correct. Now this is a department we leave to those better versed in prosody and syntax than ourselves. *The matter and not the grammar* is what we look at, and think in all scientific works, that is what the world generally judges by. At all events, we do not give our work to the master of a grammar school to correct, and yet, though we started it into the world unaided and unknown, not even having the least acquaintance with more than one or two persons who ever committed pen to paper with the intention of its being printed, "The Horse" has been better received than our most sanguine expectations had ever anticipated, and the press have almost universally sounded its praise, those which have not are dumb. We have long considered such a work as our's requisite, and wrote a portion of it some five or six years ago, but ever deferred to publish, and it was only at last, through the urgent solicitation of friends well acquainted with horses and the want of such a work, that we started it. One of them has now sent us the first numbers of the Library of Useful Knowledge, first series, No. 1. of the Horse, part the first, requesting us to notice it. We do this the more readily, as those gentlemen's names who appear upon the cover as its patrons, we feel convinced will derive pleasure from seeing, whatever inaccuracies it may contain pointed out, so that it may be that which its promoters express a wish that it may be, but we will use their own words, "we shall not, even at present, forget the name of the library to which it belongs, but endeavour to blend the useful with the entertaining." What we understand by

useful we have before expressed ; by entertaining, we conclude is anecdotes of facts, or where there is a doubt of their authenticity it will be expressed. This last we find at starting they attempt, but it is clear whoever compiled this number was not a practical man, and he has been led into error, by forgetting the privilege *travelers* too often take, and has concluded all he sees in print is gospel ; otherwise he would not have asserted many things, if not impossible, very improbable. We forget who it is that observes " we admire that hardy genius willing to believe all he hears is true, until, by experience and observation he has proved it otherwise ;" we may not be correct to a word, but as we have not the passage to refer to, the substance will serve our purpose ; we admire the principle, and act upon it as far as we can. First, then, we consider Captain Head's journey in many parts so marvellous, we shall not say anything about it, at page 5, more than observing all tired horses, be they in what country they may, will hang their heads, and that his account of the way they are broken, here he has used a proper and expressive term, for horses thus abused must be completely jaded and dispirited for ever after, and nothing could prove this stronger, as the Spanish horses are proverbial for the upright and easy way they carry their heads ; and we think instead of acquaintance with the spurs, (page 6) the term ill-use and barbarity practised with this instrument would have been a better term, but levity seems more the character of the author, the society is fond of quoting than humanity, perhaps we are mistaken in supposing this is useful knowledge, as they term him " this pleasing writer," and then describe the most revolting cruelty as practised in horse breaking, without once shewing the insufficiency, heartlessness, and destructiveness of their system thus recommending. We contend a society professing what the society disseminating these works holds forth, is supposed to be recommending what competent judges consider as the best and most efficient means for obtaining the end of which it treats ; and therefore the breeder, the colt breaker, the farmer, indeed all who have to do with horses, the class for whom this is expressly written, are told go and serve your horses as the Gaucho's do. Now gentlemen, not the subordinates ; but the Chairman Vice-Chairman, and Committee, what would be the result ? would not all our colts be far worse used than they now are in the hands of the most inexperienced colt breaker, who as it is, uses by far too much severity, and by it spoils more horses than enough ; page 7 they describe the appearances of colts at first,

saddling. We can tell them from experience there are no vicious or obstinate horses if properly used, but any one that with proper usage would be high couraged and of the temper we best like, would put on the vicious and obstinate look described, while those who bore it patiently would prove dull stupid things as we express it in this country shew a want of blood and bottom; page 8 they tell us—“ Amongst the Tartars, the flesh of the horse is a frequent article of food; and although they do not like the Pampas eat it raw.” Here they seem to have deserted their oracle Captain Head; who if we mistake not accounts for the performance of some of his miraculous feats, by having lived on horse flesh cooked Gaucho fashion, exactly in the same way the society attribute to the Tartars, however we will finish their sentence; “ their mode of cookery would not be very inviting to the European epicure. They cut the muscular parts into slices, and place them under their saddles, and after they have galloped thirty or forty miles, the meat becomes tender and sodden, and fit for their table;” Why they should assert this is not the case in South America, contrary to the author of the journey they are so fond of quoting we are at a loss to conjecture, we also see in the same page is quoted to prove the efficiency of the Gaucho’s breaking the following, “ there are no horses who so soon and so perfectly exert their sagacity and their power in the service of man.” If this is not a premium for cruelty it is a strong recommendation, every one wishing for the services of the animal as soon as possible, and that too at the least expense. He continues—“ They are possessed of no extraordinary speed, but they are capable of enduring immense fatigue. They are frequently ridden sixty or seventy miles without drawing bit, and have been urged on by the cruel spur of the Guacho more than a hundred miles, and at the rate of twelve miles in the hour.” Really this is drawing largely on the British public, did the committee who of course have perused this, ever read any of the performances of our own horses that were considered wonderful, if they have what do they think of our horses, the pride the boast of Britain, the astonishment and envy of all foreigners; if your account is true, ours are poor paltry jades which ought to be exterminated to make room for an importation from the Pampas. The Guacho’s horses are *slow!* are they? “ *and do a hundred miles at the rate of twelve miles in the hour!*” It is considered a most extraordinary feat with one of our horses to *do a hundred miles in ten hours, only ten miles an hour;* and he is no bad hack who can *do forty in four hours,* this too with management.

and attention, such as you say the Guacho's do not bestow upon their horses, not even "DRAWING BIT." Page 9 says:—"The Barb is decidedly superior to the Arab in form, but has not his spirit, or speed, or countenance." How do they reconcile this with page 12? where they say:—"The Barb alone excels him," speaking of the Arab, "in noble and spirited action; and if there be defects about him, he is perfect for that for which he was designed. He presents the true combination of speed and bottom; strength enough to carry more than a light weight, and courage that would cause him to die rather than to give up." If these two paragraphs do not completely contradict one another, in a manner that would puzzle any committee we should feel surprised. It only shows, so far as we can understand it, that the compiler and grammar-master would have been of more service in his village school, than employed on that he did not understand, and where he may perhaps lead others into a labyrinth as completely as he seems to be. Could he or any one else have read it over for him? if so what were they about? Useful knowledge indeed. Page 10—"The Dongola horses stand full sixteen hands high, but the length of the body, from the shoulders to the quarters, is considerably less." What again is meant by, from the shoulder to the quarter? do they mean from the point of the shoulder to the hip, or the extreme length of the horse? We suppose they meant this last, and then they must be leggy, and this with short backs does not correspond with our ideas of "speed;" horses with this extreme shortness of back seldom going well or fast. At page 11 we are first told there are wild horses in the deserts which the Bedouins hunt for their flesh. Then, in the same paragraph, that Mr. Bruce doubts it. We should have thought it was well enough known, *there are not any wild horses now* to be found in any part of Arabia. Page 13—"The severest treatment which the English race horse endures is gentleness compared with the trial of the young Arabian. Probably the filly has never before been mounted; she is led out; her owner springs on her back, and goads her over the sands and rocks of the desert, at full speed, for fifty or sixty miles, without one moment's respite." This is really too bad; could any one sit down and write such absurdities to send forth to the world as useful knowledge, sanctioned as this is. Let the grammarian ask the youngest boy in his school who ever rode a pony how far the animal can go at full speed, and from that make his calculations, allowing for want of breed and height (and though we know these calcula-

tions are generally far from right,) yet he could not possibly have been led into such an egregious error. You really cannot be aware what full speed is. Have you ever seen a race? if you have, how far did any of the horses go at full speed? and how much farther could they have kept it up? Our racers should never have been mentioned with such a deed. Did we not think "fifty or sixty miles" at full speed out Heroded Herod, we never would look at an English horse again; but really when it is gravely added "without one moment's respite," we are only surprised how such an error could ever have crept into any work pretending to respectability. Page 15—"Our horses would fare badly on the scanty nourishment afforded the Arabian. The mare has usually but one or two meals in twenty fours. During the day she is tied to the door of the tent, ready for the Bedouin to spring, at a moment's warning, into the saddle; or she is turned out before the tent ready saddled, the bridle merely taken off, and so trained that she gallops up immediately at her master's call.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

To a very long list of correspondents in compliance with their request, we have in this number pointed out an efficient plan to destroy the chaunters.

"D. N." A chronic cough is an unsoundness.

"A Subscriber." Most likely the pony's eyes are in fault, probably the pupils are dilated, or perhaps a small cataract; these things can only be detected on close inspection by a person constantly examining horses; inflammation having once existed in the eye of the horse, always leaves a permanent mark, which an experienced examiner can detect ever after. Should the shying only be occasioned by the horse standing in a dark stable or want of work, the remedy is obvious and easily effected; put him in a light stable and use him more.

"W. R." Send address, and an answer shall be sent.

"Z." We know two or three gentlemen wanting horses such as those described. Send the address.

USEFUL KNOWLEDGE.—(*Continued.*)

At night she receives a little water, and with her scanty provender of five or six pounds of barley or beans, and sometimes a little straw, she lies down content, in the midst of her master's family. Indeed, "our horses would fare badly," on such treatment they would starve, but are you not in error? We have been informed on *what we consider good* authority, they have a bushel of barley put before them, which will weigh from fifty to sixty pounds, and this seems much more reasonable; some one has either overlooked the naughts, or has been told they stood for nothing, so left them out. "She can, however, endure great fatigue; she will travel fifty miles without stopping;" this would be *nothing at a moderate pace* to the horse who could go *the same number of miles at "full speed without a moment's respite."* She has been pushed, on an emergency, one hundred and twenty miles, and occasionally neither she nor her rider has tasted food for three whole days. This still strengthens our supposition as to the Society's error with regard to the quantity of food. Any animal not eating must be living on his own fat, taken up by the absorbants. Had the horse only the small quantity of food named, she could have but little fat; even the bones must almost be void of marrow, therefore the poor animal not receiving sustenance at the mouth to make up for the ordinary expenditure of the system for the day, and not being able to borrow from its fat, would not recover so long a fast; we should also remember this, "five or six pounds" of corn is all the horse gets, there is no grass or hay. That animals in good condition can live a long while without food, we have abundant proof, and that the fatter they are the longer they will be exhausting their supply. We will mention one case, that of a cow, which came within our own knowledge, and who lived

A FORTNIGHT WITHOUT FOOD.

We do this the more readily, as these experiments we are glad for humanity to state, are almost always accidental, and one practical illustration is worth a thousand well argued theories; besides which it is universally allowed

" Example moves where precept fails,
Thus sermons are less read than tales.'

No. 9.

We were staying at a friend's in the country, when a very large and favourite poled cow of the Holstein breed, expected to calve in about two months, was lost ; she was at the time rather fat, it was thought would weigh about twenty-five stone per quarter. Conjecture was afloat as to what had become of her ; all the neighbourhood was scoured in vain, hand-bills were circulated freely and posted all over the country, with no better success. It was then supposed as large quantities of cattle had passed about the time she was lost to and from the different fairs, that she must have been taken off in one of these droves. A fortnight passed away, all hopes of hearing of her again were gone, and she ceased to be spoken about, it being considered as renewing a vexatious subject. We were at breakfast one morning, when a boy came into the breakfast parlour, saying to his master,—Sir, I have found the cow. No one seemed inclined to believe him, the news seemed too good to be true ; we went with the boy and some part of the family, who led us to rather a secluded part of the park, which had originally been a chalk cliff ; here he told us to look over a precipice, where sure enough was the poor cow who must have remained upon a projecting cliff hardly wide enough for her to turn round, and not twice her length, for more than a fortnight, without one mouthful of any thing to eat, about twenty feet lower than the ground we stood upon, while she again was one hundred feet above the ground below her. She seemed in very good health. A shelving road was cut for her to get out, when she joined the herd without seeming to have received so much injury as we should have anticipated, beyond her loss of flesh. In fact, so far from seeming to ail anything, she seemed to improve wonderfully for full six weeks, when she ought to have calved ; but on that day, which was looked forward to with considerable anxiety, she was found dead. Her owner had her opened, when it was found the side on which she fell between the hip and the last rib, down towards the flank, was dreadfully bruised, something in the shape of a calves' head, about two feet long and eighteen inches wide at the extremes, and the calf was out of the bed, although we had repeatedly observed to the owner we never felt a calf so completely against the side of the mother ; only a thin skin seeming between it and the hand ; we never once thought of his being out of the placenta, which was also bruised and torn. Had it not been for these injuries, there is no doubt but she would have done very well, in spite of her long fast. Although the farm-yard and a well to which the servants were constantly going was

close under her feet, and people passing frequently immediately over her, she had never been heard or seen till that morning, when the boy took the cows round that way, which set her calling to the others, and thus drew his attention. Having made this digression to shew that a fat animal in idleness may endure a lengthened famine, for she could no more obtain drink than food. Yet had the poor animal been compelled to work, or had she been poor, both of which the work we are noticing represents the Arab horse to be, a few hours would have ended her sufferings. At bottom of page 15 they mention an "excellent judge" "has described not less than one thousand horses." "The great defect seemed want of bone below the knee, which is indeed general to all the native horses throughout India," —perhaps tendon might be meant—"and also so great a tendency to fullness in the hocks, that in England it would be thought half of them had blood spavins." We were never in India, but have been informed by numerous competent authorities, that spavins are almost universal in India, and that hardly any horse lasts more than four or five years in consequence of them. This we notice because we think the fact ought to have been ascertained that they were spavins, and the cause pointed out by the society, as there is no doubt but so powerful a committee will be the means of its being circulated widely there. If, therefore, they had done this, and pointed out the cause, they might have rendered a great service to both the masters and horses in the east. However, as they do not seem to like trouble we will inform them. These hocks become diseased by the horses being thrown to such an extreme upon their haunches, as well for the sake of ease to the rider as show, and their being made to stop so short. Page 16, the Persian horse is described as more beautiful than the Arab. "He is equal in speed, but far inferior in endurance." The Persian racer is then described at page 17, and from their description of him, we do not suspect the horses shew much of "inferior endurance." "They had been in training several weeks, going over the ground very often during that time, and when I did see them, so much pains had been taken to sweat and reduce their weight, that their bones were nearly cutting the skin. The distance marked for the race was a stretch of four-and-twenty miles." "The different divisions arrived in regular order at the goal, but all so fatigued and exhausted, that their former boasted fleetness hardly exceeded a moderate canter."

With all due submission to the society, we must say if they adduce

their ideas of "inferior endurance" from such a race, we fear were our horses to undergo such training "for several weeks, going over the same ground very often," be it remembered, "twenty-four miles," till the "bones were cutting through the skin," and we very much doubt whether *our horses*, even in this cooler and more favourable *climate*, *would come in at more than a canter, particularly if they had the same jockeyship and training as is evinced throughout, and their food.* They give "Clarke in his *scandinavia* as authority for saying the peasants catch the Finland horses in the forest for travellers, they are 'twelve hands high, they are beautiful and remarkable for their speed and spirit,' and trot along with ease at the rate of twelve miles an hour." As horsemen, we must be allowed to doubt all these qualifications, more particularly while other ponies in every respect far inferior to this description, are imported largely, at as much cost as these would require. We really think the society instead of making a compilation, introducing sometimes the marvellous, but always the coloured exaggeration of the traveller, who very frequently must have known very little of the horse, ought, as a duty they owed the public, to have employed a practical horseman, and where he doubted, if the truth could not be ascertained, have left all out that bordered on the fabulous. We also think, where they quote two opposite opinions, as in the case of the origin of the Iceland horse, they should ascertain the most probable account, and give their reason. We agree with Mr. Horrebow in thinking they are of Scottish origin, and we do this from their so nearly resembling the ponies of that country, in shape, size and colour, for we have seen a great number imported, yet there never was the least resemblance in shape, colour, or action, in any individual pony to the Norwegian; the only other stock from whence they are supposed to be derived. We have now got to the bottom of the 20th page, and must beg of those subscribers who have imposed the task upon us to allow a little respite for other matter.

ON BUYING HORSES, AND DEALERS.

Having made up your mind not to care about price, and that figure, action, free from blemish and perfectly sound, are the qualifications you require, the first-rate dealers is the only place where you have the least chance of success. Here deceive not yourself, imagine not because you do not care how large a sum you give for your horse,

that you are to have perfection ; this never yet was arrived at in any animal, however near they may approach it. You must therefore be content with bordering as near to the desired object as possible, and when you have got this, expect not that every one will view the horse with your own eyes. We have shewn there are various kinds of judges of horse flesh, and therefore there will be as many different opinions.

You may rely on it he is the wisest man who asks not the opinion of any one after he has bought his horse, or if he does, he is very soon put out of conceit of it, and sells him soon after at a very great sacrifice. Neither will a wise man, when about to purchase be biassed by, or ask the opinion of more than one person, and this too a professional one (not a nurse), or he will always be perplexed by the variety of opinions, although these are more likely to agree than non-professionals (nurses). This difference of opinion amongst the professional men, who the uninitiated would expect all saw the same, arises from many causes, the most prominent of which is the want of practice in buying and selling, and the using of fresh horses ; they seldom keeping more than one or two, and they generally screws of the lowest description, (we do not mean as to height,) and these generally last them some years. From the horses which they have to examine before purchasing they can answer as to soundness, and here their business ends. The rest ought to be left to the buyer and the seller. Now we must leave the buyer of the high priced horse to give instruction to those who are not so fashionable, or have not the money to spare. If you want a horse for a small sum, with all the appearance of one worth, when a first-hand horse, from one to three hundred guineas, you must go to a repository, or some of the town dealers or commission yards, and you then must have him more or less a screw according to your price, a very unsound one of this description frequently costing a great deal more than a much more serviceable horse of plainer appearance. One person will give up every advantage about a horse to possess a little head, another prefers a good hind quarter, a third a thin high wither, but fancies are so numerous we shall confine ourselves more particularly to the three named, mentioning the others generally. To the small head, those who give up every other point to it, attribute life and gaiety, where this is the case, the horse should also be made with strength of muscle and constitution, robust enough to enable him to bear, what those who require this courage will put him to perform, otherwise

this courage is a fault. A pretty head being a point easily distinguished, there are always a great many purchasers of this prominent ornament, for which reason they always fetch good prices, although perhaps the only good point they have; but other good qualities not being so easily distinguished, require more of a horseman than the generality of horse purchasers are, to discover them. Handsome hind quarters are also easily seen, and have the advantage of giving strength to the animal, the hind quarters being those used to propel him forward, but the better formed the hind quarters for strength and speed, the more imperfect are they for the horse with ill-formed fore quarters, for unless the shoulder blades are so placed as to allow a union of action between the fore and hind quarters, the latter will push him forward on his knees. This fault of noticing the hind quarters and not having the fore ones to match is very common, and is the cause of so many broken-kneed horses, indeed it is rare that you meet with any man, sufficient horseman to have the fore and hind quarters balance properly, they mistaking a high wither sloping into the back for an oblique or slanting shoulder. This is the last point we have now named, for the purpose of pointing out the error. A buyer having had a horse fall with him, is told it was occasioned by the horse being too thick, or too upright in the shoulder. He is now determined not to have such a defect again, so looks about for a thin, high withered horse, and most probably gets one, from which all the muscle has been wasted by pain, very likely from an old lameness. Having got this slanting and thin, he thinks he is all right, not for one instant dreaming, the wither and the shoulder are too distinct parts of the horse, and that the one he now has is more likely to fall than the last, his shoulders being equally upright, and less muscle about them at the top of the wither, and that therefore he is so much weaker before. We shall have to say more on this in a future number, and shew by a plate which is not yet ready, the true position of the shoulder blade.

MARKED HORSES.

There is one very absurd prejudice, and a very strong one it is, though of late years it has a little worn off, but not in any thing like the same proportion as other prejudices have gone bye which were entirely out of the stable. In these places there is always greater difficulty to introduce a good, than can be imagined. Oral testimony

is to them more sacred than holy writ, and they turn from books, as being no authority, to rest their faith upon tradition; and this by some absurd tie keeps white legs in disgrace, for which reason a white-legged horse will not, or rather would not, fetch one half of the price of a horse, in every way his equal, with bay or black legs. Why the dealer keeps up this prejudice we have pointed out, and now must what keeps it up. A groom not used to them fancies they are much more difficult than others to keep clean, and therefore does not assist to get rid of this absurd prejudice, but on the contrary uses all his influence to augment it. We prefer white legs far before grisly bay; the horses are, generally speaking, better bred, and wear better; yet the dealers commonly sell the latter and pass them off as black. Besides, what can look more gentlemanly than a white leg well cleaned; and what shows the grooming more? By well cleaned is meant, the leg washed with soap and water, not to move the dirt from the hair to the skin, but till the skin is a perfect flesh colour, without which it is dirty; the soap should then be well washed off with clean water; the hands are infinitely better than a brush to wash legs. Then let the legs be first dried with a sponge and then with a towel. When thoroughly dry let it be hand rubbed for at least two minutes and a half; and after this any one looking at it would never again find fault with a white leg, particularly on a chestnut horse. Legs of all colours ought thus to be cleaned every morning at least, if not every time they come into the stable; but how few are there of the highest priced horses properly groomed. Many of our very best horses have been white legged. We will here mention three which must be known to every horseman: The Darley Arabian, Flying Childers, and Eclipse. Nor have we any rumour of their having been the worse for it, which we certainly should had it been the case. We constantly hear of the last mentioned horse being a cripple towards the end of his life; but this is always, at the same time, accompanied by an account of the neglect his feet suffered, and to which it always is attributed; and even though there had not been this reason, it might easily have been accounted for by his running.

PREJUDICE AFFECTING PRICES:

Those who are inclined to profit by this prejudice may still get a superior horse with white legs for the price of a much inferior one

with black, though they, as before observed, are in better repute than formerly. Our neighbours the French, and other continental nations, having partly taught us practically, a proverb up to this time a completely theoretical one, as we have always been fond of repeating, but not practising—"There can be no good horse of a bad colour." How many persons are there in the kingdom, for instance, would allow a piebald or a cream coloured horse any good quality; and many persons are equally prejudiced against other colours, which are as great favourites with others—some would not use a roan horse, another a grey, a third a black, while others have a perfect detestation for a chestnut. This is not the place we mean to say much of colours and qualities combined, but shall return to our observations on white legs. Just after the present peace with France commenced, an immense quantity of horses were exported. The foreigners soon saw our prejudices as to colour, and began taking advantage of it by carrying away all our marked horses at low prices; this called our attention more to the subject, when we found that these were fancies, and they got a little into fashion, and horses are now by slow degrees making their way into that rank they ought to hold, being judged by their quality and not by their colour; but they have many prejudices to contend with, first the dealer who looks to profit, and then the lazy stableman called improperly a groom, who meets trouble half way, and will not even give them a trial before he condemns, otherwise he would find, if he really cleaned the legs properly, there was very little difference between black and white as regarded difficulty, and that the white legs would do him infinitely more credit; this, however, is not what the stableman here spoken of cares about; the groom however does, and he should not let these fellows influence his opinions, but as speedily as possible get over all ill-founded stable prejudices and care not for colour, but be ever studious in making the most of the appearance of such horses as are put under his care, be their colour what it may.

If you will neither have a plain horse or a fancy marked one, nor exceed a given price, you must then determine which of the unsoundnesses you can best put up with, that will come within the price you have fixed. Plain horses, bad screws, and those which want breed or are unfashionable, all those which fetch only little money, from whatever defect, are termed by dealers tradesmen's horses, unless they are so nearly worn out as to be only fit for stage coach or hackney

work, or a few grades below, and then they are classed by the hands it is supposed they will fall into.

Many persons, from a very mistaken notion, buy a horse not at all fit for their work, because he looks more genteel and fashionable. He also suits their price, from some of the defects before stated. This is a complete error, and as bad a one as can be well fallen into, for if you put a horse to more work than he can conveniently manage, rely on it all his best appearances soon go, and he looks far worse and less respectable in a very short time, than a plainer horse equal to the work ; this last will keep himself in condition, thus doing credit to his master ; while the overworked horse will look poor, spiritless, and jaded. The good looks of a horse, or rather his gentlemanly appearance, depends upon more than his food and grooming. The way in which he is ridden or driven adds to or takes very much from his appearance. A thorough horseman will make an indifferent horse appear, to all but one equally conversant with them as himself, as a far superior animal to one which was infinitely preferable, only that he is managed so inferiorly. This, however, is one of the ways a would-be great man assumes to pass as a gentleman, and in nothing does he err more. There is a want of skill not so easily obtained as a smart horse, a neatness of management which it requires much time to acquire, neither will time alone, as we see with farmers and grooms, command that ease and grace, that union, seeming part of the same animal, a complete Centaurship with their steed, which very few but our aristocracy ever acquire ; it seems almost born with them : they mount a horse when quite children, different from the children of other persons. We do not mean to assert some of the aristocracy do not ride badly, but these are only rare instances, and where the groom has been their teacher.

We can tell, the moment we see a man on horseback, or the box, in the park or elsewhere, his rank in life, and whether he is or is not a sportsman.

The nobility and gentry of old families ride the best, and as we descend through the various professions and gradations of merchants and shopkeepers, we find each have their peculiar way of pointing out their situation in life. The Stanhope of the very last build, by the first maker, highly varnished as it is possible for carriage to be, with a top priced horse, will not confer one degree more respectability upon its possessor, his rank in life will shew itself. While the gentleman passing in an old bygone Tilbury, with a favourite old

screw, a set-out which the other would fear to appear in, shews, by the management of his tit, the quietness with which he passes along, the total want of effort, the complete carelessness, the ease with which he does every thing, or rather the total absence of having any thing to do, he seems as much at his ease as if he were sitting in a chair in his own room, and the horse seems to be going just where he pleases, so little controul does the master seem to assume, and so very cheerful and gay does the horse appear, that, were it not for the eye following the reins to the driver's hands, the delusion would be complete. The other sits prim and stiff, and likes to show, not only all that his mismanagement makes him have to do, but evidently wishes it to appear as if he had a great deal more risk to encounter. We should like to know how one of these drivers, with not only all their thoughts, but hands and energies, employed to manage one horse, could get through our crowded streets with four. The reason for this difference will be better understood when we enter on riding and driving. These pretenders last described are the persons who are continually causing accidents and meeting with them, and were it not for the kindness of the real horsemen in giving way, when by law they had no occasion, these pretenders would be taught they valued their skill far beyond its price. Frequently have we been amused when one of these gents have been passing, at hearing the observations of grooms and those who have seen enough of gentlemen, horsemen in the sporting world to discover the difference between the familiarity exhibited in the dexterous management of the steeds of the one and the gracelessness of the other. The following remarks we have often heard applied:—Do you see that fellow, does not he think he is doing it fine? I should suppose he is the first of the family, who ever rode in any thing but a dung-barrow.

EQUIPAGES GENERALLY.

This has led us into remarks upon equipages generally, and it is astonishing how those not used from infancy to carriages, manage to point it out so conspicuously as they do, but so it is; and so do the different ranks to whom they belong. The higher order of noblemen have their carriages handsome, rather approaching gorgeous, but neat; with splendid horses and harness, the liveries all in unison. The next rank, and old families have them neat and handsome, their horses are also of the first class; shewing they are neither neglected

in the stable or when out of it. Next comes those who lately started their carriage, and "what a dreadful falling off is here," a cumbrous coach of the largest size, as heavy as a broad wheeled waggon, frequently daubed over with ornaments. Two wretched regular skin and bone, scarecrow, crawling, leg wearied, miserable horses, looking like ghosts which have escaped from the slaughterers yard, being a complete contrast to the gaudy coach with silver ornaments and the massively expensive harness. That all this cost as much as even the same appendages of Majesty itself not twelve months before, we are quite aware, frequently more, but this is the error. The one buys his carriage and horses to make a shew, and thinks he has nothing to do when it is bought than to ride in it, little thinking the more ornament upon the carriage the more work, and that the more it wants cleaning, the more time it requires to be at home for the purpose. The horses too, the larger and handsomer they are, and the grander the action when bought, the less work as shewn before are they capable of performing, and this according to the weight of the carriage. The owners of such carriages are not acquainted with the work, that either the horses or coachman can do properly, and cannot conceive why their set out, should not look quite as well as all those which cost the same money. They forget the nobleman has many carriages, several sets of horses, and the requisite quantity of servants, and that a good coachman will not take such a place as his, having lived where the horses were in such a state, would prevent his getting into a good place again, they well knowing all the stigma falls upon the coachman, those masters who work and feed their horses properly, imagining whenever they see poor ones, that the coachman robs them ; and they also attribute the wretched attempt at cleaning the greasy daubed carriage to the wrong cause, and conclude that is the sign that he is a lazy good-for nothing fellow ; they never imagine that he and the horses have probably five times the work to do of his own servants, and would never dream of the unreasonable time the horses were out, or the number of miles they have to toil over. This is the secret of the difference in the appearance between the carriages of the one and the other. This is another instance of the equipage, and the work not being suited one to the other, in one of our former numbers we have adverted to this. Did those who keep but one carriage, only have a very neat and plain one, with harness to match, and a pair of horses suited to their work, they would have it appear much better at less expense ; being less to clean, fewer hands would

be required, and a smaller and different shaped horse for work, and not so much for show, would be kept much easier in condition, and must be most dreadfully abused, if they excited the disgust and pity which the sight of the wretched objects which we have just been contemplating is sure to create; and the observation of that is the first of the family who ever rode in a carriage, is the general observation attending the approach of such a set out; instead of the exclamations of admiration which the owners expect to excite in all beholders, by this appearance of splendid misery, a gorgeous carriage harness and liveries all dirty, or at least not half cleaned, and drawn by two poor wretched, leg wearied, and distressed horses. We have seen them sometimes looking so miserable when drawing carriages, that where they plying on a stand, out of pity we should have called any other coach to give them a few more minutes rest. This not suiting work to horses, generally is most conspicuous in the equipages of the gentlemen in the law, the principal cause of which is, they require the carriage to take them to, and bring them from chambers; their family requires it all day, and frequently of an evening; they are therefore almost always out, and the carriage never gets cleaned, the coachman has no time for more than giving it just a rub over. The harness is blacked or oiled over every fresh accumulation of dirt and dust, it never gets properly cleaned or dried, and therefore never looks well, and is destroyed from want of care long before its time. The horses also are poor and full of dust. The idea is too prevalent, that if horses have a full allowance of corn, that they must be fat. To prove the fallacy of such a notion, we will instance short stage, coach, and omnibus horses; most, if not all of these, have much more corn a-day than gentlemens' horses, without it they could not do the work required of them. 'But they are old say you,' true, but from experience the proprietors of these vehicles have discovered, that it is only old horses that can stand their work at all; young ones not only getting into worse condition, but getting far below their work, using the language of their drivers, 'our work kills them in no time.' Those who require horses for hard work, will do well to bear this in mind, and not reject an old mouthed horse with young legs, we have before given reasons for this, we will also take this opportunity of once more reverting to grand action, (high) it looks very well for parade, where you have a coachman who can drive them properly, and you merely want them for the purpose of making a few calls. But if they are your only pair of horses, they

must either be very soon spoiled, or your carriage must be very little used. The fine high step is, in itself, a great muscular exertion, and from the horses being thrown so much on their haunches, they cannot throw so much weight on the collar as in ordinary action to contend with weight. This if kept up soon exhausts them, and wears them out; it is therefore only where their work is made a complete plaything, being hardly exercise, and the horses are highly fed so as to be in the highest possible spirits, and almost ready to jump out of their skins, that this action can be kept up; to attempt it with horses that are worked is the extreme of absurdity and cruelty, as well as hastening the death of noble, generous spirited animals; for no others than those possessed of these qualities can ever be made, under the most favourable circumstances, the graceful-actioned horses which every one sees with delight bounding through our streets, expressing by their manner the pleasure they feel at being out, and their pride at the superiority of the whole of their equipments. They shew they know not what it is to be tired; all their life has been an equal life of ease, a short airing in the morning has been their longest journey.

ON TIRING HORSES.

A horse once thoroughly tired ever shows it afterwards; although he may travel well and cheerfully from not having been knocked up till he was aged, yet there is not that light-hearted careless gaiety he wore before. The thoughtless toss of the head is gone, and he does not, as he used to do, appear quite indifferent on his journey. Before, he never seemed to calculate, but felt assured before he was weary he should go to rest. Now he feels he has once been deceived and may be so again, there is therefore always an apparent readiness to stop, and he seems to be reasoning, as "he plods his weary way," upon the probability of being taken further than he likes. With some it seems to have the effect of driving them to a sort of desperation, and when they have got over what has been the general length of their journies, even when they have never travelled twice the same road, yet where they have been accustomed to about one distance when they do travel, and though this has only occasionally occurred, yet they have some way of telling the precise distance, and will take good care too, at the same time, to inform you that they do know it, and when they have passed it the desperation spoken of

seems to seize them, and they go faster and with a more resolute air than they have used all the preceding part of the journey ; they are wishing to get to rest, and they conclude the faster they go the sooner will their task be accomplished.

WHY HUNTERS ARE BAD ROADSTERS.

Very generally good hunters are the worst of roadsters ; as some erroneous reasons are given for this, as well as some which are correct, we will say a few words upon the subject. "A hunter being a tumble-down is of no consequence," says one, "his knees may be broke many ways in the field, and he not to blame." All very true. The best formed horse may fall, particularly when leg weary, often the case when pursuing the hounds, and unless the capsular ligament or tendon is injured the horse is not more unsafe than he was before, and in the hunter the blemish is of little or no consequence ; but this is not the tumble-down we allude to. We mean the horse with upright shoulders, and certainly he is not fit for any thing but a harness horse. This form is not proper for the speed or the action he often has to use, particularly over such ground as he very commonly is obliged to do ; neither does he place his fore legs so well in the leap as the oblique shouldered horse. We mean to give a cut of the proper position of the shoulders, when this will be more largely explained, being a very important point in the horse, his ease and safety depending materially upon this point, more neglected in hunters than any other class of horse, from purchasers having come to the conclusion as hunters are generally bad hacknies, it must mean it is of less consequence their tumbling down, and as it does not depreciate their value in the same ratio as that of other horses, it is not of any consequence. Thus upright and bad actioned horses are often prized as hunters, merely because they can jump and gallop, falling now and then is nothing. When the danger of riding such is explained, from the way they must fall, which will be done with the plate on shoulders, we hope they will be much less used, when accidents in the field will be far less frequent. Now we will give the true reason why hunters properly shaped are bad roadsters : those already described would have been bad hacknies and broken kneed at any rate before eight years old, had they never seen a scarlet coat. Hunters, then, are almost sure to have a regular knock up now and then, while they have all the excitement about them of the other horses and the hounds ; they

feel not the pain of aching limbs, and could they at once be conveyed into a loose box, laid deep with good clean straw, it might be well enough, and he would hardly know that he was tired. But instead of this, when the excitement is all over, he has a long and weary journey home, and it is now that he feels tired; return to our observations on knocked-up horses, and you see at once that it is the being several times knocked-up on the road, that makes the well formed horse a wretched hackney. If he is aged, which ought to be the case with every hunter, before he is knocked up it will be his first or second tiring, which makes him a very bad roadster, though the first as our last article has shewn, will not improve him. Were it not from leg weariness, horses of the proper form would not fall on the road, and very rarely in the field, but never under any circumstances in the clumsy or dangerous position of the ill formed.

EFFECTS OF TREATMENT.

Horses often get the character of being vicious from those who are employed about them, not understanding (if we may use the term) horse language. That they have a way of communicating their feelings to one another, no one who has observed them well can doubt. Who has not observed that a horse seeing any thing which annoys or alarms him can communicate these feelings to his fellows, who from some peculiar circumstances were in a position to preclude their being aware of any thing of the kind, had not the other given him notice. All stablemen know that they call for food and water. But many of their signals are so like one another, it requires a great deal of observation and practical knowledge of the horse, to tell at once what they mean, and this is the cause of so many horses becoming what is called vicious. We will instance kicking, every horse informs you when he is going to do either right or wrong, and he is not a true horseman who is not well enough acquainted with the horse to understand him rightly. The signal for kicking, every one pretends to know, biting the same, so the moment the stableman sees the horse lay back his ears, concluding one or the other is intended, he kicks or flogs the horse for intending to injure him, while probably nothing was further from the poor creature's thoughts, this laying back of the ears being a sign of pleasure, and being glad to see you also, and any one who thoroughly understands horses cannot help being delighted with the

whole expression of the horse at such a moment. The smile upon the countenance and the look of the eye, are truly speaking and expressive ; he who is much amongst horses, and cannot understand it, we pity, he cannot look at the animal as he ought, or as one would wish to do who has to live amongst them ; he who does not understand horse language enough to communicate common necessary ideas and wishes to the horse mildly, and be able to understand their answers, is not fit to be with them, from mistaking one another all their treatment is wrong, and they can derive no pleasure from one another ; such a man might do to dust and live with images of that noble quadruped, but is not a proper person to have any thing to do with an animal who is endowed with more intelligence than himself. We are aware those who have not had great experience with horses and studied them deeply, do not generally think they are any thing like so sagacious as they are, with such a person we were one day riding in the park, when he observed, he wondered whether horses really had any way of informing one another what they meant ; our reply was, most certainly they had ; our friend seemed credulous and observed, he should like to know how we could prove it, and asked what the horses were then doing, laughing and saying he supposed they were talking ; our reply was, they are communicating.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

“ In haste,” should have sent his address, when an answer should have been sent ; if it is not too late and he will send, it is at the office for him.

“ T. U.” Use the bridle recommended in the first number, and the horse will go much better.

“ B. A.” We do not like firing, therefore seldom recommend it ; but as there is no rule without an exception, those who see the horse will be the best judge.

EFFECTS OF TREATMENT.—(*Continued.*)

Well, says he, if you can tell me what they say, and prove it is right, I shall be a convert to their loquacious capacity. We will abide by that; your horse says, I will kick you, to ours; which has just replied, if you do I will return the compliment. We knew very well this was exactly what they were going to do, from the expression of their heads, and motions altogether, and should have prevented them only to convince our companion, who laughed at the idea, that we were correct, which he was very soon convinced of by their using their heels in the order we stated, to the great discomfiture of his nerves, and his nearly embracing his mother earth. Often have we rode together since, and laughed over his fright; however, he is convinced, and ever keeps asking what the horses are saying, and requesting we will desire them to converse on more friendly subjects than those which are likely to lead to blows. This shews how much may be understood of them, where we choose to pay that attention which every one ought, who has much to do with horses. We will now mention how what is termed a vicious horse is frequently made so. A beautiful gray mare, remarkably quiet, but who always laid her ears back and smiled, lifting up the hind leg next to you, when you entered her stall or passed her; we parted with her to a lady, she was then in famous condition, the mare had only been a few months in this lady's service, when we were told that she was so vicious she would not let the coachman approach, not even to feed her, without a bludgeon in his hands, and that she had that day kicked in harness. We had no hesitation in saying at once that it was the coachman's fault, who must be some cowardly rascal and had ill-used her, and was not fit to be about a stable. It was agreed we should see her when at home, as she would tell at once, on the man's moving about in sight of her, the usage she had received. On entering the stable, her ill-usage she made manifest enough; but let us go up to her as she had always done, and seemed quite glad to see us. The children of her owner came in, and went into the stall to her; they said the mare let them do any thing they pleased with her, but she kicked every time the coachman came near her, and was always biting him whenever he came within reach of her head.

We told the lady it was from her having been ill-used, when she admitted she had seen the coachman flog her in the stall for a quarter

No. 10.

of an hour together, when he has been obliged to stop from exhaustion, but he always excused himself to her by saying, the mare was so vicious, if he was not to conquer her she would soon kill him. We were so annoyed at seeing a beautiful mare, one of the best tempered creatures ever used, so cruelly dealt with, being reduced from a fine fat animal to mere skin and bone, through fretting at such barbarous usage, that we took her again, and found her just as kind tempered as ever. All high couraged horses are the quietest and best, but you should be careful how you excite them beyond a certain pitch, if you do, rely on it they will conquer, be kind to them, and no horses can be so much depended on. The brute who bears rough treatment with impunity is not worth the food he eats, and you may depend upon it ill-usage makes him much duller and more useless than he was before.

LIVERY SERVANTS.—HORSE DEALERS.

One great injustice which dealers and stable keepers have to suffer, and of which they greatly complain, not without a cause, is the servants of noblemen carrying on one or other of these businesses at the time they are in service. We cannot believe it is with the sanction of the master generally, though one illustrious personage has, we believe, once or twice dismissed a servant for such practices. What were the arrangements on the servant's resuming his former position it is not in our power to say; but certain it is that the servant now holding the situation carries on a larger trade and more publicly than ever. We are sorry that any person holding a menial situation should be allowed to trade in any article whatever, it opens the door to many little peccadilloes, and often converts the honest servant to the rogue. This we know, that more than one noble personage is most abominably pilfered; and were their accounts properly looked into they would find, either they had not the number of horses they imagined, that the horses had not the quantity of corn given which was allowed, or that much more food was had in or charged for than the horses could possibly consume. Instances of

provender being paid for which never was delivered are of too frequent occurrence. Either the one or the other applies to those noblemen and gentlemen alluded to, in at least one instance all these tricks are played. We have yet another word to say to such masters as leave horse matters to their coachmen, particularly the buying and selling of their horses; one nobleman, his country's pride, suffers more in this way perhaps than any other. Let them take a veterinary surgeon who cannot be bribed or influenced by this favoured pampered servant into their stable, and get him to examine all the horses bought by these liveried horse dealers, when they will find there is hardly a sound horse amongst the whole lot. These parti-coloured traders say, if a horse is a little queer, so that they look well from the window, how can their masters know any more about them, and as for a roarer he must be bad indeed if the wheels do not make more noise than he does. Some time back we were in a stable thus ruled by plush inexpressibles, and though considerably more than a hundred a-piece had been given to this trusty servant for several of the horses, they never cost him one half the money.

If the masters choose to be thus robbed we will say no more to them on the pecuniary score, but tell them that justice requires they should not allow it. It is an injury to the honest and industrious servant, who sees that rogues get on by every stratagem, and live in comparative idleness, all the work they do being for themselves, unless just driving their masters to a dinner once now and then can be considered hard, while "honesty" is almost "in rags," that is, they have to work for their wages, which would be considered ample till compared with their brethren, who do little or nothing else than trade for themselves. They are therefore tempted into minor peccadilloes, retail robberies, and probably take *quarters* where the other, being a wholesale plunderer, takes quarters. This is not an exaggerated picture; we could prove the truth is far worse than this in many instances. Now for the injustice to the stable keeper; he has to pay for all the food that the horses on his premises consume. Is this the case with the servant when he keeps livery stables? or does not his master at least help to keep them? Under these circumstances can those who buy provender compete with him? The story of the two hawkers of brooms seems here so apropos we must be excused relating it. One says, "Jack, how can you afford to sell your brooms so cheap? I thought I could take as little as any one for mine, for I stole the stuff to make them." The other replied, "But

I steal mine ready made." This is something the position of the two stable keepers. Now we will observe how it injures the dealer. He must pay for the keep of his horses and buy them also, and he and his family have to live out of the profit. There have been instances known of servants having stables away from their masters, with their masters horses in them too, if paying for them gave any right to ownership. These horses have been sold and replaced by the servant times innumerable, at a good profit every time. When the master has wanted to see those horses they were out at exercise, said the confidential ; and when he thought it requisite were brought in from his stable for inspection. Is this a fair or proper competition for the dealer to have to contend with ; but what is worse, the servant supplies all screws and unsound horses to his master at high prices, and gives an eclât to all his, when selling, by passing them off as his masters, and saves himself a considerable sum yearly for a license to deal, which he otherwise would be compelled to take. And if by any chance his master should be about to buy a regular dealer's horse he finds some fault, or insists upon it the horse is unsound when the reverse is the case ; anything, in fact, to prevent his master's going past his stables, although in many instances, if not in all, he has to pretend they are the property of other persons. By such means as these how many men who were once stableman have become rich in a few years, when instead of being shunned and scouted as they ought, they are pointed out as patterns of industry ; men who have by assiduity and perseverance raised themselves in a short time from poverty to independence. This is the observation applied to the successful rogue, should an unfortunate fellow be caught at the beginning with trying thus to make his fortune, he is hung or transported amidst the execrations of every one. These observations we are led into from being told some short time since, of a man who used to be loitering about a stable yard living upon the charity of those who were employed in it, till he could get a place as a gentleman's coachman, he at last was successful. About six years afterwards in spite of having taken unto himself a wife while in service, who presented him with several children, he contrived *by his industry*, as my informant termed it, to *save money* enough during that time to purchase half a stage coach, and purchase horses to run the half of a sixty mile ground, and this too be it observed during one winter and two opposed seasons. Now let us ask how any man with common sense can suppose for one instant that out of *honest savings*

in six years, or even had he saved the whole of his wages as coachman during that period, *that he could horse a four horse coach for thirty miles on any road, much more on one of the most particular roads for its teams of any, and that too during one winter and two oppositions.* Not willing to believe the man so great a rogue as he must have been to have accomplished this, we asked whether he had not had some money left or given him in some way, when we were assured he had not. No longer could we doubt his INDUSTRY, whatever we might think of his HONESTY; and had we not been pretty well aware of the character of many stablemen, and the plans of those which we were shewing just before this coachman was mentioned; we should not have thought pilfering was so easily accomplished during the first years of servitude. A very short time since a noble duke's coachman bought a fine showy carriage horse an inveterate roarer, for twenty seven pounds, he sold him to his master for eighty-five guineas. At the time of his buying him he was asked what he could do with him as his master would hear him make a noise as he went along. I should not be afraid of my master hearing him, was the reply, but some of his good-natured friends might and tell him, were I fool enough to take him off the stones; but I will take care he never sits behind him on the road, or at any rate it shall be some time first; when it will be considered the disease has come on since it has been in his possession. To see any person whatever may be his situation in life, improve his condition and provide an easy independence for old age or sickness by his industry and honesty, must ever afford great pleasure to a well regulated mind. But we must acknowledge we do not like to see bare faced villainy and robbery achieve in a short time, that which years of honest toil requires; yet how often have we seen the sturdy impudent rogue step over the head of honesty. To do them justice it is we expose the pilferer, and sincerely do we hope their days of plunder are at an end, and that when they are caught no mistaken pity will spare them their merited, their well deserved disgrace and punishment; they are the men who never ought to be in any employ, but the stable ought they to be kept from above all others. This is a place of trust, and none but those who are worthy of credit are fit for the situation; we have before described the good groom, and every one must see such a character as this is any thing but that, and we will not even call him a stableman who would deprive the horse of a single oat which was his due. There is no punishment too great for so dastardly a crime.

ERRORS OF FOOD AND GROOMING.

So much had we heard of the effects of grooming, that we determined to put to the test, a few years back, the old remark that good cleaning was better than corn. The theory of the circulation being assisted by it, the solids and fluids being improved, absorbents set in action, insensible perspiration excited, all sounded very well, still we were in doubt, as to its being better than corn. The coats will be much finer, said one who fancied that curry-combs and hog's bristles conveyed more nutriment when applied by way of friction to the skin, than food when administered by the mouth. *Active absorbents* to derive so much ailment from such indigestible materials merely passing over ye. However, incredulous as we were, by its being so continually repeated in our presence, we thought we would give it a fair trial, therefore put three horses *on three quarters of oats and good dressings a-day*, and an equal number *upon four and no cleaning*; their work was as much alike as possible. The result was, as we had anticipated, the dirty beasts, as it is said of children, thrrove upon their dirt. They got quite fat, their coats laid close and showed the oil in the hair, (looking thriving,) and a goodly proportion of dust while those who got well brushed looked much poorer, their coats looked harsh, dry, and staring, they were cleaner, but that was all. We now tried eight horses, having exactly the *same quantity of food each, four were cleaned, and four not*. After trying this some weeks, we had the rough ones cleaned, and could not see any difference. The neglected ones used to rub and scratch themselves, but certainly were not less fat.

Practice, here, as in many other cases, particularly where horses are concerned, is not of itself sufficient. It is only in this way we can account for the number of useless, and many more that are worse than useless, books, which have been written respecting them; most of our writers have not been practical horsemen, and have written pleasing theories, no doubt imagining they were doing some service. That cleaning does the horse a great deal of good, no person for one moment, who is acquainted with the horse, can doubt. But why run after fancies, and run the risk of bringing a good into disrepute, by attributing those qualities to the subject which are easily refuted. To hear some of the cleaning theorists dilating on its virtues, you would expect to see each time the brush was applied, some one or

other of the water marks, as they are termed by grooms (i. e. interstices between the muscles) disappear at every stroke. Why thus mislead; cleaning has sufficient real advantages to need no adventitious aids; particularly such as are likely to make those who put it to the test by these fancied benefits, fall into the other extreme. We allow it excites the absorbents, assists circulation, &c., and that alone is a great good, by keeping away cuticular diseases, which, when formed from irritating the animal, might make him loose flesh, or if that did not, and the disease was neglected a short time, the physic would. Rubbing and cleaning the skin also makes the skin thinner, by reducing the cellular membrane, and makes the coat fine, but all these goods will not be the result of grooming, without a due proportion of corn, according to the animal's work; but we have said enough on food in a former part of this publication. One material convenience is always derived from cleaning, whether the horse is ill or well fed, and that is, the saving to one's cloathes, the dirt of a horse being most destructive to them, particularly when warm, sticking almost as bad as paint. This one reason, could the horse derive no benefit from it, would operate sufficiently with the groom: it being a great annoyance to him to see his master suffer any inconvenience, and that more particularly from dirt which it was his business to prevent above all others.

WARRANTING.

Few subjects are so little understood by horse buyers and sellers than warrantries, an interesting subject, and one which we have before promised to give our readers; the present article is intended to explain the advantages and disadvantages of them, and when to take them, as well as to teach you the exact value of such a document. Chaunters, after what has been before said of them we need hardly warn you are the last persons whose warrantries should be for one moment considered as of any other value than as waste paper, it perhaps may be convenient to light a cigar, to which purpose, the sooner it is applied the better, it always being a memento of being bit, not very pleasant to

the feelings, every time it meets the eye. The screw dealer's, we have also shewn, is hardly of more value. So is that of travelling gentlemen, who live in lodgings, and are never to be found twice in the same place, and persons in desperate circumstances.

A clergyman having a living in Yorkshire, came to town a few years back, to see what was doing in the world of fashion, looking over the papers one morning, he was struck with the description of a horse in one of the advertisements, and out of curiosity was tempted to go as directed to the Saracen's Head, Snow Hill. On his arrival at the gate, a groom in livery walked up to him observing, did you want to see my master's horse, Sir. He then led the reverend gentleman to a stable yard in Farringdon Street, (at that time Fleet Market). On his way thither he began to have his doubts and fears as to the genuineness of the advertisement, the fame of chaunter's tricks having reached his secluded parsonage, but considered, as he only went to inspect and not to purchase, there could not be any harm done to himself. The horse surprised him by its beauty. He went with the groom to his master, a gentleman in the Fleet prison, who told such fine tales of the animal, and nothing but his unfortunate situation should ever have induced him to part with it, that the parson, in a fit of enthusiastic rapture, caught at the idea of his possessing such a host of beauty and perfection, and driving up to his friends to astonish them with the spirit he had displayed in purchasing so magnificent and costly a turn-out. Touched on his weak point all his caution was forgotten, and he not only bought the horse, but the pretended gentleman's chaise and harness into the bargain.

The horse was put to, and off they started. He had only got to Holborn Hill, when his doubts as to the propriety of his purchase began to cross him ; he thought he heard a very curious noise, but this might proceed from many causes ; a few yards further and the horse seemed distressed, this he accounted for in two ways :—his late master had not been able to use him for some time, or look after the groom, or, as he said, he would not have parted with him for any money. The groom, therefore, might have neglected giving him the proper exercise, or, if he had done this, it might not have been in harness ; it was not, therefore, to be wondered he did not like to draw up such a steep hill. He arrived at the top still there was a something wrong ; he drove a little further, and was at last convinced against his will, that the horse was a roarer, and that too of the worst kind, not being able to go faster than a walk without making an

intolerable noise ; and if urged a little, showed signs of falling from distress. What was to be done ? He had got a warranty ; he returned the horse ; he threatened to bring his action. Upon enquiry he found it would be of no use, but add an additional loss to that he had already incurred. He therefore determined the first loss was the best. That horse not only got his first proprietor out of the Fleet, by his repeated sales and returns, but was the means of his obtaining a considerable sum of money. He is now said to be worth some thousand pounds, having been ever since a successful chaunter. We have mentioned before that they now get some one in difficulties to represent the horse as their's, not being themselves seen in the transaction, many of the older part of them now being worth money, and therefore an action would be very inconvenient, and those who are not, have, by their reckless conduct, dissipated their plunder. The remark of "that which cometh light goeth easy," was of old applied to the extravagance, and gambling propensities of highwaymen. It also not inaptly attaches to another description of plunderers, perhaps of more modern origin. Though the tricks which have been played on the purchasers of horses have not been accurately described, yet from the very earliest records we find tricks of the most ingenious and daring kinds were practised by the dealer. Their deputies are liberally supplied with all requisites necessary to appear in the character they represent. Where shops are made use of as a cover to these infamous transactions, unless they belong to one of the party, as is frequently the case, the chaunter lists their owner into his service, to give him a character of respectability by acts of liberality. One of their maxims is, they must not spare the gilt (money). Sometimes they manage to dupe the honest tradesman innocently into assisting them in their nefarious transactions, by being good and liberal customers, and leading the unsuspecting man of business to fancy they are persons of much honest pretensions and greater influence than they are, and by the promises of the great things they will do for them in a variety of ways, get them to allow their advertisements to be directed to their shops, as well as to give them a character very opposite to their real one. This is the higher order of chaunters ; there are others far below these again, who chant a different kind of horse, and for less sums of money. There are others who like to change horses ; they deal in a kind of horses which they are almost certain will be speedily disliked ; they express well-feigned sorrow that they cannot return the money, but shew great alacrity at

changing the horses as the only atonement in their power; this apparent honesty throws the purchaser off his guard, and to get rid of a useless brute he does not mind making a sacrifice, so pays a difference, and probably gets fixed with a worse than before; or should not this be the case, he has paid more for the second horse besides giving the first into the bargain than he would have done at any respectable dealers in

USED HORSES,

and to these we should always recommend those who want low priced horses, to go into their yards, not deceiving themselves or asking others to deceive them; we have plainly pointed out before, the nearer perfection is approached, the higher price will the horse command, and therefore those wanting high priced horses must make up their mind what sacrifice they will make, and they must either have a plain horse, or a screw, or both. Not then to deceive yourself, when you get into the yard say boldly and plainly to the dealer, I want a good tradesman's horse, for such and such purposes, or a used horse. In former numbers we have endeavoured to point out some of the reasons for and against the one and the other of these horses, that you might judge for yourself which was the most likely to suit you. Now let us warn you against the error, a very common one, of fancying your work is light, when in fact it is otherwise, and to ascertain this we must consider, not only the distance, but the weight and the speed which you require. One half mile at nearly the full pace of the horse, does him more injury than weeks of proper usage. Pressed beyond his natural pace, (this will be explained in future numbers,) but a very short distance and the same effects as those just mentioned will be the result, but at a moderate pace you may take a good formed horse from twenty to thirty miles every day without the slightest inconvenience, and he will get fat, go slower and he will go much further. It is neither the distance a horse goes in the day, nor the number of hours he is out, providing he gets well fed, that is of consequence, but the pace, and that which is slow with one load would be fast with another, and those who require horses for work, we certainly recommend to buy used horses, they being seasoned and fit for their work, and you buy them at second hand prices, while those horses which have not been worked will have first hand prices attached to them. You will have to lose much time in getting them

into working condition, or you probably kill or ruin them at starting, and with all possible care when they come to work will shortly be reduced to class with used horses. Many of the defects attached to these, and upon which the veterinary surgeons so much differ, are merely little enlargements thrown out by nature to strengthen the part and assist the horse to do the work required ; this we have more to say about in future numbers, but merely throw out this hint that purchasers may not be frightened where there is no cause.

We are aware some difficulties arise in buying this class of horse, it requires, if you do not go to a dealer that you can depend upon, a far better judge than to go and buy a young horse, which has not been at all used, for three reasons, first, amongst horses which have never been used, more sound horses must of necessity be found, and from those which have been kept till five years old without working, you have a right to suppose their owners have ever taken great care of them, as a valuable property, therefore take it as a lottery, leaving respectability out of the question, the chances of getting a sound horse from amongst these are in your favour ; secondly, it requires a man who has known horses long enough, under every variety of circumstance, to decide whether those defects or signs of work, which exist about the used horse, are to enable him to do his work, or are defects from mismanagement, labour and cruelty, which rather tend to weaken and be an inconvenience when the horse comes again to be used, also he must be able to see whether he is or not a lame horse, merely bolstered up for sale ; thirdly, because there is less dependence to be placed in this class of dealers, and with them also a warranty is of little use, unless you are satisfied of their respectability, as many of them try for a change, and unless you do this as before observed at a loss, you will not get any thing. Warranties under all these and many other circumstances, are only a plague, an annoyance, and a great expense ultimately, the horse having to be placed at livery the whole time, and the loser, which amongst a certain set is sure to be the buyer, gets fixed with the whole expenses of keep for all this time, also of the trial, and ultimately be obliged to keep the horse. We have been for years in the habit of buying a great number of horses in all parts of the kingdom, we never care from whom we buy, it being the horse we want and not his master, and we never take a warranty from any one, in such contempt do we hold them generally, knowing most of the dealers will warrant any thing, and abide an action ; they may take us in if they can, while we place no depend-

ence upon them, and those who do with the intention of enforcing them, by a law suit with the pleasing results we have just detailed.

There is also another ingenious device resorted to, not only by the screw dealer and chaunter, but the dealer who trades under some other name. It is this, they ask so much for the horse, *you make an agreement for a certain price*, the seller now informs you he cannot warrant unless you give him so much more ; upon this you conclude the horse must be sound, and congratulate yourself on the great saving you have made by giving up a few words, sagaciously observing to yourself, his saying the horse was sound would neither make him more or less so, and unless the horse was sound he never would make such an offer. Sometimes the horse is thus offered—if you will take the horse without a warranty I want such a price for him, or I have no objection to giving one if you will give so much more. A certain repository keeper we have heard saying the horse did not belong to him, but so convinced was he of its soundness he would warrant it for two guineas. To show the value some persons put upon their warranties, we will mention the fact that the person alluded to has been heard to say he would "warrant any horse for two guineas." These were his words on a remark being made to an observation of his on warranties.

PROVING HORSES' AGE.

That a great deal of useless obstinacy is often displayed to make a person fulfil a warranty where the breach of it, if one had existed, we are quite aware could not have been any injury to the purchaser ; in proof of which we will just relate an anecdote which occurred with a dealer whom we would place more reliance in than any other. Having on several occasions seen him act with the utmost honour and liberality ; and here we think he was used very ill, from incapacity in one who ought to have known better, and fool-hardiness in the other. A gentleman purchasing a horse was extremely particular in having a warranty inserted, not only as to soundness but age also. Some time after he had purchased it, some knowing busy body —such as are ever meddling about those things of which they really do not know anything, but horses more than all others,—got him to take the horse to a veterinary surgeon of examining notoriety, who pronounced the age of the horse a few months different from the warranty. There was no other fault, at any rate, rendering the horse

returnable. However, for these few months, although of no consequence, the obstinate purchaser insisted, not because he sustained any injury, but that he would punish the roguery of the dealer, that he would have "his pound of flesh," his warranty should be fulfilled. The dealer had it examined at the veterinary college, where the horse was pronounced the age warranted. The seller therefore refused to take the horse back, the lawyers no doubt told the buyer there were capital grounds of action, and it was placed at livery to abide the dilatory proceedings of the slow moving, heavy, and expensive machinery of the law. About two years we believe the horse was kept at livery before the case was tried; the examiners as to age on both sides were examined, and each was equally positive that he alone was right. "When doctors disagree who can decide," became the question, when a person entered the box who said he was the breeder of the horse whose age formed the subject of dispute. This is a class of persons, whom judge and counsel seem to think they have a right to bully and banter without mercy, and the jury to let all they say pass bolt through both ears as not being worthy of the slightest rest on its passage—this fiery ordeal the present witness had to undergo; still he stuck to his assertion that the horse at the time of sale was the age warranted, still the judge seemed doubtful, and either him or one of the counsel observed—"You say, Sir, you are a large breeder, that you have a great many brood mares, nearly all bringing you a foal every year, then how dare you pretend to remember so exactly the hour when this horse was foaled, and that too at so distant a period of time. Upon this the breeder seemed to collect his astounded faculties, his recollection at once returned, he used eloquence more powerful than the whole court; there was none of the sophistry of the lawyer, it was nature asserting truth. He held up a child, evidently of the age the horse was stated to be, and observed—"Well I may remember the precise time—while I was gone for the doctor to this child's mother the colt was foaled, so that they are within a few minutes of the age of one another." This was conclusive in favour of the dealer and the college, leaving the fashionable judge of horseflesh the pleasant reflection of being proved a novice, so far as the age of the horse was concerned, and that he had led a customer into an extravagant error who had to pay for his obstinacy, the point merely turning upon a few months. At repositories if you buy a warranted horse lose no time in setting to work to find out his defects, and the moment you discover a bar to the warranty hesitate no longer but send

him back. Their warrantries last but a short time, and keeping a horse longer than a reasonable time after you have discovered his unsoundness makes him yours. Keeping him, therefore, a few hours unnecessarily may lead to litigation, if not to fixing you with the horse, the law being so uncertain, and the words "reasonable time" so very indefinite.

CHAUNTERS' ALARM.

We have received information from several quarters, that this respectable body of industrious duping personages are very much annoyed at our having established the registry, proposed in our last part, at our publishers ; who has now moved to Wellington-street, Strand, for the greater convenience of those who will rather apply at his office than be chouced by the chaunter. His having offered to register gratis, seems to have raised their ire, more than the prospect of their speedy dissolution, which some letters received by us either from themselves, or some would-be friends saying, that he must be a d—d rascal who tries to injure their trade, acknowledges must be by the registry. It is now the fault of the public if they are allowed to exist any longer, they themselves acknowledge the death blow is struck, and that our plan proposed is more effectual than the law ; we therefore hope the opportunity of creating a famine amongst them at this period of the year, their harvest, will not be lost ; and gentlemen will be able by advertisement when chaunting is defunct, to get proper prices for their horses, and be able to buy without the risk of being swindled, neither of these two desirable objects can they now effect. We counted the chaunters advertisements on a Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, a week or two back, those three days taken together there was not less than twenty-five ; the other three days we forgot to make a memorandum, and for fear of mistake we will not trust to memory. Does this not shew were these fellows done away with, how useful a means of communication to horse buyers and sellers would advertisements prove, and how numerous they would become. But now there is hardly any person of respectability who would not prefer making any sacrifice rather than have their premises marked as chaunters,—which has occurred, the proportion of the innocent being to the guilty so very small, that all have got condemned together. There is yet another reason why these audacious fellows should be put an end to, they have been known to advertise horses

at noblemen's and gentlemen's stables. Sometimes by bribing the groom, sometimes by taking the stables during the time the owner is out of town or on the continent; and they have even been known to advertise a horse at a nobleman's or gentleman's stable, and station a servant in an undress or a livery, which at the moment would pass as that of the owner of the stable where the horse was advertised, if it was not one actually purchased of the servants. Their man is then stationed so as to catch people as they are going to the stable named, and by some manœuvre draw them to the stable where the horses really are, this is frequently done by saying they were just going to the stable the horse was in, as he had been removed to prevent the other horses from catching cold with the doors opening so often with gentlemen coming to look at the advertised horses, or the advertisement had been addressed to the stable which it was on account of the grooms living over it, or being most commonly there. The modesty and liberality of some of their advertisements is admirable, some of them care not, if they were to be believed, at all about the price of the horse, those who do not know them would really fancy they would give the horse away; "a kind master" being laid so much stress on as a consideration in selling. They are also very liberal in all their offers, only they want the money, and after they have accomplished getting that, you may do as you please, try him as you like, take him to a veterinary surgeon or any thing else, but you may as well save yourself the trouble and expense, for let what will be the matter, your money you will never see again. They always pretend, if it were not for this or that you might have any trial you pleased. Sometimes a gentleman is to be there to make up his mind about the horse at a given hour, at others there is no one to go out with you, and being a stranger you can have no objection to leave sometimes so little as half the sum asked as a deposit. This is enough for them, you may rely on it you never will get one farthing again. But their tricks are so numerous we can only relate one or two occasionally.

THE LAW TO MAGISTRATES.

We certainly are surprised at the apathy of magistrates as regards chaunters, and still are puzzled to ascertain how, in the case mentioned a few weeks back, the chaunter escaped the fangs of the law. A poor fellow who, from thoughtlessness gets into some trifling scrape is

hardly dealt by, while these pests to society are allowed to stalk abroad unmolested, in fact, are told there is no law to punish them, leaving an inference that theirs is an honest trade, for we are pompously told on all other occasions, the arm of the law is too strong for robbery, and that there is no crime it cannot punish, no offence it cannot reach, for which reason is this bug-bear, law, stretched to punish a poor woman for selling trifling articles to save her famished children from the grave, while these wholesale plunderers cannot be reached at all. Why? you will enquire, is this, magistrates seem more afraid of law than they are of not doing their duty, and they conclude if they tripped in attempting to punish these scamps, they would bring an action for false imprisonment. This it is out of the power of the vendor of apples to do; now we will tell them how they may punish these fellows without fear of actions, whenever they come before them. *Selling an unsound horse as a sound one, knowing at the same time that it is unsound*, subjects the offender to a *heavy penal punishment*. We think, therefore, if this could not be proved at a first hearing, any magistrate would be justified in remanding the prisoner, to give time to get evidence, when we confidently anticipate, neither the public or the magistrates would long be troubled by them, this is a second way we have pointed out, but still we recommend the registry as before proposed.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

“The Chaunters” are answered in the body of the work. Their insolence and threats will not deter us.

“In Want” is informed that several horses of all prices, sorts, and sizes are now registered at “The Horse” Office, Wellington Street, Strand. If, therefore, he sends a description of the horse he requires, or calls, we have no doubt he may find one to suit him.

“T. R.” There are two or three very “superior and elegant thorough-bred park and ladies’ horses registered.”

Our Publisher has entered so zealously into our views for the “Suppression of Chaunting,” that he has removed to more commodious premises, 12, Wellington Street, Strand, for the greater accommodation to those persons wishing to register their horses.

CHAUNTERS, NURSES, SWEETENERS, &c.

Being asked what the chaunters do with themselves when the business of the day is over; and what becomes of the money which those who remain poor make, we will tell in the best way we can, also answer the query where they are to be met with. First, they are generally great gamblers, and are to be met with at different houses of this description, from the shilling and half-crown houses in the neighbourhood of Hanway-street, and Cranbourne-alley, to those of a higher order in the neighbourhood of Bury-street, and St. James's generally, their places of resort depending upon their finances; the low public houses are also honoured by their presence, particularly where any games by which money is to be won or lost are played. Houses of this description in the neighbourhood of repositories are frequented by them, and here when there are no *strangers* they relate their ingenious stratagems to catch the less initiated, and laugh over their victims: one whose father-in-law was a veterinary surgeon, to prove his proficiency in the arts and mysteries of coupling (dealing in the lower class of horses), anglice cheating, relates many tales of taking in this father and professional, and says when he and his father were about to deal his parent was obliged to take an extra glass of ale to brace his nerves, and assist him in the examination, yet all would not do, his dutiful son-in-law was always too many for him. This worthy of the chaunting school says, he will not believe any man is fit for the horse business who does not take in his customers, and it is not from any feeling of honesty that he does not fleece them, but only that he has not judgment sufficient for his business; this certainly was too much the opinion of the dealers of the old school. Nurses are also pretty generally addicted to gaming, and therefore to be found at the resort of gamesters. Some of them are partners in these houses, and others are croupiers and servants about such establishments; some holding these situations are also sweeteners, one in particular is so to more than one commission yard and a repository, though he is more employed by one of the commission stables, than any of the others. Frequenting gaming houses and betting places assist many of the sweeteners and nurses in a variety of ways, they here find customers. From these resorts of vice and folly, the chaunter also receives a

No. 11.

helping hand, for here they find ruined men whose desperate circumstances render them so callous to consequences as to degrade themselves into the chaunter's tool, to stand to their horses as described in preceding chapters; and they also get a premium for introducing young men to these infernal places. Screw dealers likewise keep themselves poor by gaming, but few of them aspire or wait to get money enough, or are *not sufficiently respectable to PLAY WITH GENTLEMEN*, which the others, still greater scamps are allowed to do, having the qualification requisite, being able to play for larger stakes, while the less fortunate are only permitted to exercise their gambling propensities in the houses devoted to smaller play, and at shaking halfpence, shillings, or sovereigns, according to their success at dealings in their hats. Guinea men are also devoted to play, some manage to get money in these houses, of course honourably obtained. Some people will lose a little but carefully, and the pockets of those who happen to get too tipsey by drugged liquor handed freely about to know what they are doing, when the house gets tolerably clear, or after they have been carefully conveyed to a coach, have found their pockets empty next morning, even when they have had a run of good luck all night. But as we are not writing an essay upon gaming, we will dismiss so detestable a subject, having said sufficient to shew the connexion subsisting between gaming houses and some of these worthies, that their respectability may no longer be a matter of question, and continue with only the artifices used to rob with horses.

SCREW DEALERS.

A favourite plant, as it is termed with screw dealers, is to say to the purchaser 'I will give you a month's trial, that is, if you do not like the horse at the end of a month I will take it back, on your giving me six guineas for its use,' this as they say amongst themselves looks honest, and the purchaser considers with himself that he cannot be far wrong, every thing must be discovered in that time, and if the purchaser finds any thing which he does not like in a shorter period he can pay for that time and return the horse. This is what the dealer intends, and is part of the trick. He takes good care to have your money when you take the horse away, and he insists upon the agreement; six guineas he agreed for, and that sum will he have if you return the horse, even though it is the next day, unless he can get you to effect a change by *paying a difference*, he justifies this by

saying, you might have kept it the time if you liked. The horses which they sell thus are usually not worth twenty pounds in reality, although they probably ask from thirty to sixty guineas sometimes even larger sums, so that being returned a very few times gives them a very good profit. Frequently a warranty is given as to soundness, and one month given to find out any thing which may vitiate the warranty the six guineas being bargained for as just related ; by law you are bound to return the horse as soon as you discover an unsoundness if you mean to act upon the warranty, this the dealer knows, and therefore that his horse will be sent back in a few days, and he fix you to pay this sum as agreed, or he can either make you keep the horse or give him a larger ducer to take the rip off his hands or change it, this manœuvre having placed you completely at his mercy, and too frequently the buyer trying to save himself as much as possible, gets deeper and deeper entangled in the meshes of the dealer by changes, till after being completely fleeced, he is compelled either to put up with as bad if not a worse horse than that he first had, or resorts to some other plan of suiting himself.

REPOSITORIES, KNOCKING OUT.

The repository-keepers are for ever exclaiming against chaunters, and expressing a wish that they could be put down, saying how glad they would be in assisting so desirable an object. We have told them how they may, and shall see whether they really mean what they profess. *They also say* they wish the tricks practised in their yards, could also be abolished, that of knocking out above all others. We shall try them, as we are about to propose to them a plan by which they may most effectually, if they choose, knock it on the head ; it may be a sacrifice to them in the first instance, but ultimately it will pay them far better, besides to know of such abominations, and not to prevent them, is something like conniving at a robbery, for we cannot find a softer term appropriated to such a transaction ; we are also told a person looking on while another breaks into a house, is as bad as the burglar ; if so, in what light are those who look on while these robberies are being committed, all the time knowing what is going on to be considered.

The following and similar transactions are perpetrated every day in these places ; it is a growing and an increasing evil ; there was a time when they pretended to do it with some appearance of secrecy, but now it is done in the most impudent and bare-faced manner. While a sale

of horses was going on a few weeks back, we observed a mare brought out worth at least sixty guineas in any dealer's yard, we saw what was going on, and observed to a person acquainted with these transactions —there is a robbery going to be committed ; there will be a strong knock out for that mare. Our prognostications were verified, for one of the party came up to us just at the moment, his face beaming with satisfaction, and observed, there is plunder ! there are ten of us in it ! The mare was knocked down at fifteen pounds, which was more than the owner would get by thirty shillings for the duty and auctioneer, and its keep, putting up, &c. would have to be deducted after that. Yet with the knock out it cost the dealer who retained it nearly twenty-five pounds. This is far too bad, and quite time that such scandalous transactions were put an end to, for had the owner got twenty-five pounds he would then have been pretty liberally victimised. Nor is this an isolated case, but of every-day occurrence, and frequently we have seen even greater roguery than this perpetrated.

That the repository-keeper may prevent this, there is no more doubt than there is of his knowing when a knock out is about to take place, and this cannot escape the eyes of *gentlemen* so proverbial for their quick-sightedness as auctioneers ; when therefore they are aware such a robbery is being effected, why do they not take upon themselves the protection of the owner, and order the horse into the stable, unless he sees a class of persons in the yard, one of whom may perhaps become a purchaser, and then he might observe so loud that all on the premises might hear him,—I am ordered to sell this horse without reserve ; but observing there is a certain set of dealers in the yard who are endeavouring to smuggle him between them, unless some one will come forward to bid, and defeat them, I shall take upon myself to order the horse in unsold. He would of course say what he could in praise of the horse, what he supposed his value, and what the bidding was. There may be doubts as to whether this would not at first be a trifling pecuniary loss to the repository keeper, but ultimately it would be the reverse, as he would soon get more gentlemen buyers, and consequently more gentlemen's horses. This would be an incalculably greater profit to him, as by the gentlemen buyers taking the horses at so much higher prices, his commission would be a great deal more, and by having a greater number of stalls filled with gentlemen's horses, he would get paid for the stalls, putting up, and all other charges, which the DEALERS, whose horses now occupy THE GREATER number of stalls, never pay UNLESS

THEY SELL. It is therefore the auctioneer's interest to sell dealers' horses in preference to any others, and not to offend these customers particularly, that they may get the expences just enumerated; were it not for this, so many of their horses would not be in these yards, and the repositories would soon have nothing to do, unless some such plan as that just recommended was adopted; as it would be too evident how few horses were sold at the hammer, and that they were most of them sacrificed through trick, dealers' horses generally sent in other names being the only ones that brought any price. Take the average of the year, and out of every hundred horses which are sent to repositories, dealers' excepted, are there twelve sold? nay more, are there seven? out of the hundred that are sold. That the dealers must have a profit we have all along endeavoured to impress upon our readers, and in estimating this profit the perishableness of the article must be taken into consideration, the slight causes which deteriorate their value, and the ease with which they meet with accident, and that a death or illness takes off the profit of many others: all these things should be allowed for liberally, as well as interest of money in proportion to the risk; and last, though not to be forgotten, their keep. Each of these charges must be biassed by the price given, the age of the horse, &c. Thus the screw dealer calculates upon a greater sale and less risk, the price being smaller, and trifling blemishes of less consequence than the first hand dealer, who has to lay out large sums, and whose property the most trifling scar, even though temporary will materially depreciate in value, or procrastinate in sale. We do not, therefore, complain of dealers getting bargains where it is done openly and honestly, but why give only fifteen pounds to the owner of the horse worth sixty, and give ten to the other dealers not to bid against you? would the twenty-five have been too much? You know it would not—you know in open competition it would have brought much more, but that your brethren will rather make one pound certain in the yard than wait a few days for more, and that it pays you better to do this than purchase at the horse's value. (Knocks out are not always for pounds, and crowns, a smaller coin sometimes being used.)

Have you never observed, and been astonished to find when your horse was booked, that is a price been entered in the books of the auctioneer, under which he was not to be sold; that no one makes a bidding. The cause is, the dealers are soon made aware what you require, and conclude if it goes to the hammer, and there are no biddings, you will be disgusted, thinking how much you have over-valued

your horse, and they shall be able to get it a bargain, either when the sale is over or a short time after, but this we have entered into in former numbers.

Again we repeat, let the dealer buy but fairly, whether it is at the hammer or elsewhere we care not, he is entitled to any bargain that may fall in his way ; and if he buys a horse for five pounds, worth as many hundred he is not to blame for having a better knowledge of the article than the seller who did not appreciate the horse at his real value. A costly picture to an ignoramus, on these subjects would appear far less valuable than a more modern one of much less merit. Yet he would not be anathemised who was a better judge and made so desirable a change. With a Cremona violin, and many other articles of vertu, the same applies. And are not horses, though they certainly do not increase in the same way by age, viewed very differently by different classes of persons, and their value is as frequently mistaken ; that which renders them invaluable in the eyes of horsemen being considered useless and worthless to fancied judges and a numerous class of horse proprietors.

Whatever auctioneers may profess, their conduct certainly seems to favour those dealers who knock out, for we have observed where the owners of horses have booked them for unreserved sale, but have afterwards repented on seeing their property being destined to a knock out, and have bid themselves to prevent so dreadful a sacrifice, the auctioneer has taken upon himself to reprimand the sellers warmly, and told them they must not send their horses pretending they are for unreserved sale, when they did not intend it. This we mention because we have heard auctioneers make these observations, whom we expected, from their so repeatedly condemning such practices, calling it shameful, &c., would have felt pleasure in seeing the system they profess to condemn destroyed by the seller. In spite of their professions and practice not agreeing, we will allow them the credit of mistaking the way to effect such a purpose, and sincerely hope that they are in earnest in their professions to prevent knocking out. At the same time they should be careful how they seem to sanction those deeds they reprobate. We can only account for it by supposing that these transactions so often passing before their eyes become habitual, and they see wrong in such an inverted position that it almost appears right.

It is true that at one commission stable at least the keep of horses

is often charged for weeks after they are sold. If you go to the stable one day and ask if the horse is sold, "No Sir." "Is there any offer made?" "Yes, Sir." "How much?" A sum is mentioned. "Do you not think I had better take it?" "Leave that to me, Sir." Away goes the owner of the horse; it is sold; he waits till his patience is exhausted, calls at the stable again, and then finds it is just gone; or at least so says the account, he having the keep deducted from the proceeds to that day. Or perhaps you may call several times after the horse is sold, but not having looked for him you are told he is not sold. On more than one occasion have we known the owner of a horse call at the yard and ask whether his horse was gone, and has received "No Sir," as the reply for a fortnight at least after it had left the yard as the property of another.

On other occasions gentlemen have called several times at the stable receiving the same answer that the horse was not sold, neither could they find the right time to see their horses; some excuse always having been made, either that the horses was being tried, or at exercise, for at least ten days after they were sold; the commission man holds the money all this time, and then charges for the keep, for that time which the horse never could have had, not having been near the premises after the sale was effected.

SERVANT'S DEALERS.—(*Continued.*)

In our last number, we observed upon the train of evils resulting from the livery servants of gentlemen being horse dealers, neither do we consider those out of livery are more to be justified in carrying on any trade; and that the butler and house steward are just as likely, in fact do take advantage of their situation to make the most of their business when dealing in horses, or jobbing them, for both of these businesses do they follow, and we are not aware of one circumstance which differs with them from the liveried dealers (page 146) to which we refer. Their masters equally help, if they do not entirely keep their servant's horses, let them hold what situation they will. Their names are also equally used in selling, or in any other way most convenient, and we know not one circumstance in which they differ, unless it is that the higher the situation the servant holds the more easily can he rob with impunity.

TRYING HORSES.

On the occasions heading this chapter are many buyers most unreasonable, and most unprofitably do they try the patience of the dealer. Sometimes it is requested that a pair of horses may be sent to a gentleman's house for inspection; on one occasion they were to be fifteen hands high for a phaeton; a pair sixteen were sent; the professed buyer looked out of his dressing room window on the second floor, and sent word down by the footman he was extremely surprised how the dealer could have the impudence to bring such a pair of rats as those in the break, to pass them off as the height required, *they were not fourteen hands*. The dealer sent up a very proper and temperate reply, stating the absurdity of attempting to judge of the height of horses when so much above them, and requesting the gentleman to come to the door where he would be nearer on a level with them. After waiting some time without once leaving the door his customer came down to the street as requested, when instead of making a gentlemanly apology he insisted the dealer had changed the horses while he was finishing his toilet, and made many rude remarks upon trying to impose upon him, as if he did not know the difference between the two ponies which he had seen from his window and these elephants. Hundreds of instances of similar occurrences could we mention both with riding and harness horses, all being very similar to one another, this will suffice; though we cannot help expressing our surprise at the patience and servility of horse dealers, in allowing their horses to go to any one's house for inspection after meeting with the rebuffs they so commonly do, besides it materially tends to keep up the mean opinion so universally entertained against them. Let them display a readiness to show their horses, and grant the usual trial, but always decline sending them for inspection; it rarely sells the horses, and many persons keep having horses sent, first from one dealers and then another's, as well as all the advertised horses and others that they can hear of during the whole season to their lodgings or houses, merely to give them a consequence amongst their acquaintance, some of which they take care shall call about this time, to whom they make out there is always some insurmountable fault. Others again resort to this to give them credit, and they take care such tradesmen as they want to victimise shall be with them at the time

of these inspections when they either make their observations direct to them or to the servant in their hearing, but invariably reject the horse for some immaterial fault, observing, as they do not mind price, or naming some very *long* one as being about what they intend to give, though they will not be particular to a few pounds, they observe they ought to have one to suit them, but all the time never intend to buy any horse at all, and the sum named is quite out of their power.

A short time since we were amused by an elderly gentleman examining a cob at a dealers, it was a very nice neat animal, but the intended purchaser observed, he should like him a little larger, and to step higher, he was asked fifty guineas for this, but said, as he did not care about price, he did not see why he should not wait a little; observing he found a friend of his had the other day sold for one hundred guineas the very horse he wanted, and requested the dealer, if he should meet with, or hear of such a horse, as he described, that he would send it to his house. One was at last found, which was taken as directed, and met with his approbation; the dealer thought he had certainly fixed him, "the price, sixty guineas," the buyer repeated the sum, the dealer concluded the bargain settled, and rubbing his hands said, "I will get a receipt instantly," thank you, replied his customer, "there is plenty of time for that yet, if you intend me to have the horse we must agree as to the price." "Certainly, sir, but really you cannot think of offering less for such a horse, you know the difficulty of getting such shape and action," thus they got into an argument, when the *gentleman to whom price was of no consequence*, was so liberal as to offer twenty-five pounds, saying that that was the utmost value of any horse, all prices above that being attaching a fancy value. Let such persons turn breeders, and they will soon learn better. In our anxiety to protect the buyers against the machinations of the unfair dealer, we are not so unjust as not to point out a few of the most prominent and unfair tricks practised against dealers by pretended buyers. That of using their horses under the pretence of trying them is very common, and most unpardonable. One or two of the most usual methods to obtain horses without the dealer or one of his men attending them, is to hang about coffee houses and other resorts of gentlemen, and there learn who is about to purchase horses, they then get to accompany them, when from having attended two or three purchasers, and having rendered themselves busy on these occasions, they have become known by sight to the dealers, and now they begin to try horses, as

they pretend, for their friends or themselves, and when they manage to distribute their favours judiciously, they contrive to get two or three horses a week all the season through, this with a little judgment in discriminately shewing the horses to their friends, and in the parks and fashionable places, gives them the appearance of keeping a good stud. We have seen men about town who have rose from nothing, but contrived by some means to obtain small incomes by cutting a dash with their studs at the dealers' expence, get the credit of being supposed rich and into first-rate society. Sometimes these tryers will keep a groom, and have him wait at a given point in the park with the horse for them, this adds to their apparent earnestness in wanting a horse to the dealers, and looks better with the public generally. Sometimes they are so fortunate as to meet with a known purchaser of the different dealers, and this at once establishes their credit, sufficiently to be allowed to take a horse on trial by themselves, but the most unpardonable of this class of horse sellers' plagues is the following: he confines himself to no class of men or horses, if a horse is for sale, he is obligingly ready to try it. Those mentioned above also favour gentlemen by trying their horses occasionally, but it is only horses of the more expensive classes that they condescend to use, others, second raters, would instead of giving them a degree of consequence in the fashionable world, rather tend to the reverse as they imagine. Enough, however, has been said of these, so we will return to the less particular, and by way of illustration give a well known trier of this class, we fix upon one as a sample of the whole, and being a much easier and explicit way of generalising. An Irish barrister of Lincoln's Inn, having been to all the first rate dealers and tried and abused their horses by over work, till they could not bear with him any longer, was obliged to resort to the screw dealers, who in their turn have dispensed with his favours; he now therefore has to supply himself by the following ingenious devices. Upwards of two years ago, he purchased a second-hand Stanhope, telling the coach-maker he wanted a horse, and requesting him to send any that he might hear of to him, and he would have the chaise fresh painted and lined so soon as he was suited; this of course interested the coach maker in sending all the horses he possibly could for trial; a second hand harness was purchased at a saddler's, the same story of wanting a horse being told, and a new harness being made, besides saddles, bridles, cloathing, &c., the moment he got a horse to suit him; the tailor was talked to about the best cloathes to

ride in, and the promise of a new suit to make, the boot maker was consulted respecting top boots, in short, every one of his tradespeople he interested in sending horses to him for trial. With the livery stable keeper, so earnest did he seem, that they agreed to his proposition that they were to let the chaise stand without charge, not only after he had got a horse, but until he obtained one to suit him, so that here was a double interest also; and through these various channels he contrived to get a horse every day, except during the winter, when he gives out he does not intend to buy till next spring. The trials, as he is pleased to term them, are pretty severe, and his mode of dismissing the grooms who bring the horses being particularly gentlemanly, we will say a few words. When the horse gets to his door, no matter what it is, a trial is all he wants, or rather we should say a drive, so he desires the servant who takes it for inspection to take it to the livery stable, and get it put in his chaise and bring it to him; he then tries to get rid of the servant by saying he is only just going to show it to a friend for approval, and as he shall be back in a few minutes, it is not worth his while to accompany him; if the servant should not be got rid of by these means, he drives him to a friend's door, whom he gets to come out; he then tells the servant to go back to the stable, as he can have no objection to his friend's just sitting behind the horse that far, and to make haste not to keep them waiting. He goes to the stable as directed. At night, about ten or eleven o'clock generally the horse comes in driven off its legs, and ready to drop, having been to Windsor, or some other similar distance, at an improper speed. The horse is sent to the yard by a servant without any message; the groom goes next morning to see what the trier has to say, and see whether he cannot get the usual perquisite on these occasions. He is shewn into the room, upon entering which he gets assailed with the lowest abuse, and threatened to be kicked down stairs for daring to shew his face, after having brought him such a brute to try. "Ought you not to be ashamed of yourself for daring to try and take in a gentleman in so bare-faced, so impudent, a manner." This he has more than once said, at the same time pushing the astonished groom out of the room, who was well aware the horse to which he was alluding was as good as could be found. "I should have been home much earlier, but the horse is so slow, and seemed so weak, that I put him into a friend's stable to rest for an hour or two at Windsor, otherwise, I should not have wasted so much time from important business with

your d——d horse. Your master, sir, ought to feel much obliged to me." Often have we smiled at hearing people innocently remark they wondered how so-and-so managed; he was always well mounted, yet his income would scarcely furnish him with bread and cheese. Had they known as much of the means used to cut a figure as ourselves, their wonder would have ceased. However, we have our astonishment occasionally excited in return, and that is, how dealers can exert the patience which they do, knowing how many of these fellows there are about town, and that they go from yard to yard till they cannot get any more horses shewn them. Why do not the dealers each keep a list of them with their names and descriptions, fixed up on some conspicuous part of their premises, and let all their brother dealers know, the moment a new *tryer and no buyer* starts up. By these means such pests to them, and hindrance to their business, would soon be got rid of.

DRIVING.

We have put this out of the order we intended, as it ought to have been according to our idea, after riding, as it is while in the saddle that the horseman learns how to use his hand, consequently the management of the horse. However, as we find a very general opinion prevails, that riding and driving are not at all connected, and knowing that many have the temerity to sit behind a horse and hold the reins who never crossed one in their lives, or in any other way have learnt their management, and imagine because they are not everlastinglly upsetting, and meeting with accidents, that they are perfect phætons, they never once consider that there is a particular management required beyond keeping clear of posts and turnpike gates, neither can they conceive that a horse quiet with the management of a horseman, will be violent and restive with a fancied one, who has plenty of nerve and no judgment; neither can he understand that there is a great deal of difference between the way in which the horse performs his work when employed by the one or the other, and that the elegance of his action and general gait is altered, either to be more elegant or slovenly, as he is properly or improperly managed. Yet we find the worst class of whips in a short time get by degrees familiar with their danger, till it seems to vanish altogether; at first they view a turnpike gate with horror, doubting if not upset, whether they shall not at all events touch one of the posts. After a little experience they begin to know better the breadth of the vehicle

and as they get more familiar with this the gates appear wider, next they begin to drive closer and closer to other moving objects, till at last we find they have become tolerable proficients in the mechanical part of driving, (the scientific part being the management of the horse). They now in self estimation are quite prodigies of talent in the art of coachmanship, and long to distinguish themselves, and "woe, will betide the unfortunate wight," who has the hardihood to take a seat beside them, while they are exhibiting their dexterity by trying how close they can drive to other conveyances. The truly scientific coachman knows better than to run such silly risks, or rather is aware of what the other has yet to learn, the folly and danger of such stupidity. It is not because the latter cannot measure his distance equally true, on the contrary, where necessary he will do so to a much greater nicety by his superior management ; but as he knows he cannot calculate upon his opponent using equal skill, it is only on urgent necessity that he runs unnecessary risks, for could he depend upon other driver's management, it would be impossible for him to tell whether the horse in the other vehicle might not shy at the critical moment, and without any other fault than want of experience sufficient, not to measure your distance, for this as before observed a man may do, and be far, very very far from a coachman, but to take care of yourself as well as others, a principle which no horseman ever forgets, an accident most probably serious to one or both occurs.

To many this is no doubt a new doctrine, they considering not to run against any thing the very acme of perfection in the art. A very few months back a gentleman at a cattle fair was pointed out as one of the best whips in England ; upon enquiring more about him, we found that what was meant by the best whip was, he always drove at the rate of thirteen miles an hour ; this certainly could be all they meant, as to convince us still more of his ability, they informed us that he kept two chaises, one or other of which was always at the coachmaker's, he generally having injured the one in use so much by running against different things if he had not been upset, the latter of which he seldom escaped a month through without accomplishing ; so that he always had one ready to go into dock by the time the other was prepared for use. Yet by general consent he was esteemed a good whip, merely because he disregarded the life and limbs of his Majesty's liege subjects, and could contrive on good broad open roads, for such he was in the habit of driving on, and never drove in London, to give such encouragement to the neighbouring coach maker. While such dri-

vers are held up to public admiration, and such break-neck mismanagement is miscalled *the best driving*, we do not wonder at its being considered the easy task it generally is to jump behind a horse and hold the ribbons; and the many hair-breadth escapes they scramble through only induces others to try their fortune as charioteers.

A gentleman told us that from some friend of his having the reputation of being a *superb* coachman, who was always upsetting from shewing his skill at shaving waggon wheels as he passed them, thought although he had never sat upon or even behind a horse, except in a stage coach, that he at all events could not be much quizzed for his awkwardness should he imitate his friend in the least desirable part of his coachmanship (upsetting,) therefore made up his mind to hire a horse and chaise for a day. In the mean time, big with the event, and partly to get a little information without asking, fearing this would shew ignorance, he talked to every one he met about driving, and bragged of his feats along the road, driving at the rate of sixteen miles per hour, passing stage coaches, &c., (this is always considered as a most astonishingly clever accomplishment by young whips.)

At last the eventful day arrived, when he had engaged to drive a lady a short distance in the country, and to whom he had not diminished his accounts of dextrous feats performed. He lived on Brixton Hill, and there stepped into the chaise, nothing daunted, fortunately it was on the left-hand side of the road, and this was the side which during his driving conversations he learnt he was to retain. He had not got many yards when he observed the road never looked so narrow before, and a stage coach was in the distance, as it neared him it seemed there would be hardly room to pass, he was half inclined to call out, but concluded the coachman would take care; he shut his eyes and shuddered, when he opened them the coach had passed, and just before him stood a green grocer's cart *on his side* of the road, he pulled up, and waited, though rather impatiently, for the driver to come from the door, where he was talking to a servant, concluding he would at once move the cart to make way for him, instead of which he began very coolly turning over his greens. Upon this he complained of being kept, when he received what he considered a saucy answer, and began to claim his right; a crowd collected, to whom he told how ill the greengrocer was behaving, when he found to his surprise, instead of taking his part they all burst into a laugh at his ignorance, and he ultimately gave the man of greens half-a-crown to instruc-

him in the different ways of passing, not having any idea before, that in driving, as in all other cases, there is no rule without an exception. He now got on pretty well to Kennington Church, only having observed that some of the gentlemen and coachmen seemed to take especial care to give him plenty of room ; arrived here he had no time for further observations upon them ; the turnpike gate stood full before him ; this called forth the reflection that if ever he should arrive at senatorial honours he would take care to bring in a bill to prevent their being made so narrow, it seemed a useless waste of the road, and unnecessarily putting people's lives in danger. His heart was in his mouth as he neared it ; he watched with anxiety the wheels on either side, and took care to draw up just before he got level with the posts so as to walk carefully through ; when he had accomplished this daring feat he considered it one of the greatest reliefs he had ever experienced, at the Bricklayer's Arms his courage fled, and he called in the assistance of a man to lead the horse by, and through the gate facing ; he had only proceeded a short way along the Borough when a gentleman whom he had not observed before drove up to him, and shewed him the folly and danger of attempting to proceed, telling him he had followed him ever since the adventure of the green cart, and that if nearly every person he had met had not taken pains to avoid him, he certainly could never have reached so far without an upset. Dispirited and mortified to the last degree, he took the kind advice proffered him, and sent the chaise home by the waterman of a neighbouring coach stand, and proceeded to write a note of apology to the lady, whom he was to have met at Hackney, pleading sudden illness as an excuse for not being able to take her the promised drive. He adds, if mortified pride and vexation is an illness, he certainly told truth, as it confined him to his bed for some days. It was months before he would even think of learning to drive, and then he began by riding from the corner of the common in one of the pony chaises there for hire ; by degrees he acquired courage sufficient to take the reins for a short distance at a time, till the roads, the turnpike-gates, and every thing seemed to acquire additional width, and should he ever be a member, we think it likely he will forget his once mediated bill for the widening of turnpike-gates. He, however, regretted he did not learn in a better school, having most of the elegant accomplishments in driving of his masters, such as jogging with one rein and then the other, by way of urging the horse on, and sitting with one or other of

the reins loose, besides other neat habits too numerous to mention, but which are not considered absolutely necessary by the coachmen educated in a different way.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

To J. S. B., City-road, we feel greatly obliged ; perhaps he will be so kind as to send his address, or call at the publisher's, 12, Wellington-street, Strand, which ever is most agreeable to himself.

G. W. Y.—We are sorry we cannot this time answer in the body of the work. Most probably the horse has a surfeit, or his food may be too heating for his work, or not enough of the latter ; try for one week giving about one fourth of the potatoes raw, and if he itches or rubs himself much, take from three to four quarts of blood, according to his size. If the address is sent, the other parts of the letter shall be answered, or if word is sent when it will be called for, we will leave a letter for him at the publishers.

We have received numerous letters complaining that the booksellers have supplied the writers with some other work when they have asked for The Horse. To prevent similar mistakes, we would advise our subscribers to ask for The Horse published by J. Hamlet, Wellington-street.

W. L.—There are low-priced horses registered as well as high.

B. D.—Contracted feet, even though “ the horse does not nod his head,” is an unsoundness.

R. T.—Any cough, even a recent one, is an unsoundness.

ERRATA.

Page 140, last line, for *pmnishment* read *punishment*.

150, line 26, for *practice* read *theory*.

156, line 2, for *by* read *buy*.

159, last line, for *allow* read *fellow*.

FLYING CHILDRENS

Illustrated by J. Hunter & Son, 1875.
Price 12s. 6d. per volume.
12 vols. 12s. 6d. per set.

H. F. Chalon



FLYING CHILDERS.

In our sixth number, we gave a portrait of the sire of our present justly far-famed horses, the Darley Arabian ; we now give, as a continuation of the series, his no less celebrated son, whose name has been handed down for upwards of one hundred years as the swiftest horse that ever ran, that we cannot give implicit credence to the reports of that time for want of an authenticated record we mentioned with the last portrait, but that he was the fastest horse up to his time seems never to have been disputed ; it is the time we doubt in which he has been represented to have performed his matches. He is reported to have leaped thirty feet on level ground with his rider ; he was bred by a Mr. Childers, who sold him to the Duke of Devonshire. There has not been any printed record of the performances of our horses till long after they had ceased to breathe. He was foaled in 1715. Perhaps we ought to apologise for apparent neglect in not having produced his portrait earlier, but our intention is to follow up one family as near as we can, and occasionally give one or the racers prior to this cross, to show in what way the old breed has benefitted by the mixture with this blood. This we shall do when we can procure any thing approaching to an authentic likeness, but from the earlier horse portraits either being done by those who did not make it their exclusive study, or what is more probable, the small stock of horse anatomy acquired at the time, they are all so poor, we cannot determine properly from them.

The present portrait is by Mr. H. B. Chalon, a name so well known as a horse painter that any praise of our's would be superfluous, but as we deem the original from which he took it very imperfect, we must say we consider he has greatly improved without altering the likeness ; and that whatever faults it may possess in the eye of the anatomist, they belong to the original. We have been trying for some time to meet with a likeness of his mother, Betty Leeds, but without success ; should any of our subscribers be able to inform us where there is one, we shall be much obliged.

Hitherto, our task of collecting portraits has been a hard one, those of the early part of this family (if any were taken) either having been lost, or there are very few of them, and those so highly prized by their owners, that they are difficult to meet with.

The likeness to his sire is evident, though possessing more of the
No. 12.

English character; but at the time the picture was taken he evidently was much younger than his sire, and the painter better understood his profession, and therefore placed him in a more animated position.

The horseman will be able in imagination to animate the Darley, clapping spurs to his sides, and then how different would the animal look; many who now think him a dull, heavy coach horse, would admire him as a handsome, high-couraged, well-turned horse, but we observed with his plate, he had not had a qualified artist, and such as the portrait is, all horsemen must feel deeply indebted to the artist for having transmitted his likeness at all, however clumsily.

Childers, not only while alive, but for many years after, was supposed to be the fastest horse that ever ran; his stride with his rider on his back was 30 feet at every bound; it was from his amazing speed that he acquired the name of flying; prior to that he was called the Devonshire Childers. His sire's was not all the eastern blood which could be traced; his great grandsire on the dam's side being the Darcy yellow Turk, his grand dam was by Leed's Arabian, sire of Leeds, and his great grand dam by Spanker, great great grand dam was a Barb Mare. Thus it appears, the Darcy yellow Turk and the Barb Mare, his great great grand dam, produced Spanker, so that Spanker was purely foreign blood; his great grand dam was by this Spanker, so she must have been at least half eastern blood; his grand dam was by Leed's Arabian, therefore she must have been three parts foreign; his dam was by old Careless, out of a sister to Leeds, by Leed's Arabian, old Careless himself being by Spanker, whom we have before stated was purely eastern blood. On the dam's side, we have not traced so closely, but we doubt whether there is any English blood to be traced to him, although, as we have remarked at the commencement of this article, he shows something of English shape, having lost that straightness of the hind quarter at the setting on of the tail, so peculiar to the eastern horses; this national character does not, however, appear to be so plainly as we then supposed, traced to the English blood of the dam, and we should probably have altered it, but having gone to press, all we can do is to correct the error, which we have taken some pains to discover; must say we are now surprised to find how the eastern blood had got into such disrepute, as represented at the time of the Darley; when we discover that it was so generally used. In April, 1721, he beat Speedwell, carrying eight stone five pounds, four miles at Newmarket, for five

hundred guineas; in October following, he received five hundred guineas, forfeit from Speedwell; in the October following, carrying ten stone six miles, he beat Chanter, winning one thousand guineas. In April, 1723, he received forfeit fifty guineas each from the Lonsdale mare, and Stripling; the November following, he received one hundred guineas forfeit from Bobsey, after which he was kept for a stallion in the Duke of Devonshire's stud; he was sire of the Hampton Court Childers, Mouse, Blacklegs, Odsey, Plaistow, Fleece'em, Second Blaze, and several others. The way in which the horse lays back his ears, and the good humoured playfulness of his countenance at the same time, are purely eastern; on the laying back of the ears we have, however, made some remarks in former numbers.

DRIVING.

When any lamentable occurrence takes place, such as any one being run over, or a driver being seriously injured or killed by being turned over, we immediately hear an immense number of voices raised in one simultaneous outcry against the poor horses which drew the vehicle; and where death ensues, the horse is ever after pointed at, and you are told he killed a man with as much horror as if he were an actual homicide, who had committed so revolting a crime in cool blood, and for some specific purpose; the driver passes quietly through society without a blot, or any other remark (if any) than "that gentleman used to drive such a vicious horse, he ran away and killed a man; there was such a deodand upon him." There actually is a baker not far from Bermondsey who, within the last two months, ran over and killed a boy; it was the third person he had deprived of existence in this way, yet was his horse blamed, and a coroner's inquest decided it was accidental death, and levied a trifling deodand on the horse, upon which animal many remarks were made, denominating him bad tempered, vicious, and unruly. We have said, we maintain, and will prove it;—that there is no such thing as a vicious, a bad tempered, or unruly horse; it is the mismanagement of those who are about him which is to blame.

An outcry is also raised against one-horse carriages, accidents it being observed, more generally happening with these than others; they therefore innocently come in for their share of blame. Were this applied to those carriages with four wheels drawn by one horse there might be some truth in the observation, but these, by a mistake which we were going to call unaccountable, are adopted as being most secure. Our observations we are now applying on one-horse carriages, generally those with four wheels, from their constant use, and that from a mistaken notion as to safety, we think of sufficient importance to notice by themselves subsequently.

The three *accidents* before mentioned with the baker, occurred with as many different horses, and in no other instance than the cases alluded to did they ever exhibit any vice; so far from it, by the persons residing in the neighbourhood they were considered as remarkably docile; the baker, on the contrary, was equally notorious for bad and furious driving. In our last number we gave an account of the way, even persons of respectability become, as they imagine, initiated in the art and mystery of coachmanship. Reflecting upon this will at once shew the folly of supposing fewer accidents will occur, while donkey drivers and cab-men are considered *professors* in the science. But such they are: can any one walk the streets without observing the number of errand boys and shopmen who are taking their instructions as they drive along, to the peril of every thing weaker and lighter than their progressing academy, which every other vehicle, with the exception of the independent dray, avoids with as much dread as they would one of the war chariots of the ancients. This is the worst way a man can begin to handle the reins; learning to drive thus is out of the question. In the first place, where did the cab-men learn to drive, which would qualify or justify their teaching others? Nearly every one of them has entered that line of life from a very different trade to that which would teach them the management of horses; the greater part of the conductors of these vehicles being mechanics of some kind or other, shoe makers and tailors are very common amongst them, and few of them on first taking the reins, had any other qualification than being able to produce the required sum as security to the cab proprietor for the days' hire of these monstrous machines, they being made of such weight and strength that the proprietor does not mind risking their being knocked against other carriages and posts, their strength preventing their being much injured by the concussion, and their weight from their

being knocked over, and even when they are, they are seldom seriously injured. So much reliance do they place in their cabs possessing these impenetrable qualities, that it is no uncommon thing for the cab proprietors to put a horse into them which probably has never been in before, (frequently knowing this to be the case,) with one of these self-styled coachmen to drive it. A man or two is sent to run by the side of the horse for a little way, when the *new horse and new man* are left by themselves to ply for hire. Here the weight of the cab again serves them ; it soon tires the horse into leg-weary, crippled obedience : as for passengers' necks, and the limbs and lives of those who are thronging the streets, they are naught compared to the all powerful argument of pounds, shillings, and pence. Now for the second reason why this is a bad way to learn. Admitting the drivers are capable of teaching, the style of driving required for these horses is ungentlemanly, and uncoachman-like in the extreme ; but what is perhaps of more importance, it is dangerous also not being applicable to any other class of horse than that upon which these cab drivers exert it,—at any rate that small portion who have ever had to do with less decrepid animals, than those destined to drag out a wretched existence in these public machines of torture. Who has not observed the extremely inelegant way they jog and tug the poor horse along, he carrying his head as much on one side as possible, to endeavour to avoid the dreadful tears and jars his mouth receives. In this there is more cruelty than the whip, yet the legislature does not meet it ; being less perceptible, and the man who from humanity would punish the barbarity of the lash, looks on with apathy while the poor wretched dragger of the cab is suffering far more extreme though not such apparent anguish.

That the mouth of the horse is much the most sensitive part about him, we have abundant proof, witness it in the instance of the bit and spur. Goad him however cruelly with the latter, yet the former restrains him if well trained ; he may plunge and rear after having tried whether passaging and other taught movements will not get him some cessation from torment, but he only faces the bit : he cannot, or will not, run away. This being sufficient to prove the mouth is more sensitive than other parts of the horse, we will return to our subject, as this will have to be discussed along with bits. As the horse gets older, the nerves by which feeling is conveyed to the skin become less acute, and it is at this age generally that they get into public conveyances, short stages, omnibusses, hackney coaches, and

cabs more particularly. At this period, then, it is that they first begin to have their mouths tormented, as the drivers not only dislike the trouble of flogging, but consider, in addition to the labour of such frequent application of the lash, the odium which must necessarily allow such easily-detected cruelty ; as the horse gets leg-weary, the tool (whip) has less effect, the pain in the limbs being greater, if not at the moment, in a second or two after the blow was inflicted.

Every school-boy knows that a greater pain will ever overcome a lesser, which their various experiments at school to prevent hallooing when being punished there sufficiently prove.

Horse people know it too well, and therefore use a variety of tortures to prevent their crippled dumb servants from shewing the pain of their wearied limbs and aching feet, in its universal language, lameness.

Through the mouth, then, the part which retains a sense of feeling longest, is the poor, the weary, wretched horse, once probably the high priced pet of some indulgent master, by the aid of the bit, goaded on, agonised in every nerve, to the knacker's yard, where the axe cheats nature of a few niggard hours ; for that poor beast, if ever he had any courage, must be on the verge of the grave if he no longer answers to the jirk of the bit.

Having shewn the cruelty and inelegance of the practice, we will now state the danger, not that all horses will not learn to bear this, or any other punishment you choose to use them to by perpetual infliction. Still this does not take away from the danger of the habit, as no horse, till he is old and nearly worn out, will bear it. Besides, if this jerking becomes habitual, you will forget, and probably exert the same violence with strange ones that are younger, from carelessness or second nature (use), when the horse will become unruly from the punishment, in proportion to his courage, the tenderness of his mouth, the severity of the bit, and his former management ; and if his courage be good, and his treatment hitherto proper, an accident will most probably follow this dereliction from horsemanship. This at once accounts for very many of the accidents which occur.

It seems a pity there is not some law to prevent persons plying about the streets with public vehicles for hire, the same as with watermen ; whether the same length of apprenticeship would be necessary is a question, but for the proper treatment of the poor brutes employed in this, under the most favourable circumstances, wretched employment, and the good of the public generally, by it their safety

would be much greater, carriages would not always be running against one another, not only to the danger of the parties actually brought in collision, but of all those who are walking along ; for when horses which are thus frightened break loose, they generally do much mischief before they are caught, and why are not the lives of his Majesty's subjects who travel by land of equal value with those who travel by water.

In one of the papers of the Spectator, he mentions it was on the box of hackney coaches, instructed by the Jarvies of that time, that the Templars learnt to drive ; the numerous accidents which occurred induced the legislature some time afterwards to interfere, and they effectually stopped the nuisance, and to this day the Jarvey seems to have undisputed sway over his ribbons, as we never see any one ambitious of a charioteering name, attempting to drive his cattle. Whether this is on account of the legislature, or that our modern Phætons despise such drudgery and crawling, while the boxes of fast coaches are to be had for hire, we cannot determine. Soon after our friend, who learned to drive from the boys on Kennington Common, was laughing at himself, and had related his feats before recorded, we met him putting a young horse into harness, actually what he called breaking him in. We remonstrated, and began to talk seriously about mouth gentle, hand quiet, steady, and so forth, but found we were treading on such dangerous ground, that it was most prudent to desist till another opportunity, which we had when the horse was taken out, as a broken shaft was the result of the experiment, and the horse had been taught he was to jib (run back when he ought to have started forwards.) Reverting back to his tale, and laughing at himself, we found he had not changed his opinion, and that in a few days he had become quite a proficient, in his own estimation, and he began to argue upon where these fellows learned to drive, and said had it needed an apprenticeship to learn, we should have discovered that sooner ; then asked where coachmen learn to drive, and intimated they had no instructor ; and he not being the only person who has made the same observation, we will explain how most of them serve a very long apprenticeship, and the reason why so few of them are good is, they have bad instructors, and not being theorists, cannot improve upon the practice, which has been instilled into them. Most coachmen are the sons of coachmen or stablemen, who begin to move about with the horses as soon as they can walk, and seldom do they cease to be daily exercising them

in various ways under the direction of a senior till they can get a coachman's place for themselves, and rarely do they get completely from the controul of seniors till nearly, if not quite, turned thirty, before they are considered sufficiently qualified for first coachman, many not arriving at that desirable goal till years after. In those situations where one only is kept, there are few who will take them till after the period mentioned, and those who are not the children of stablemen, with very few exceptions, have from their earliest childhood been brought up in the stable, and made to attend strictly to its duties ; we are, therefore, justified in saying nearly one-half of a coachman's life he is learning his business. All those, therefore, who imagine that by merely taking a pair of reins and a whip in their hand, perched on a box, they are constituted coachmen, labour under a great mistake. In remarks upon equipages in a former number, we pointed out some of these errors, and shewed that a coachman might be able to drive in a style suited to one kind of horse, but not at all fit for another, and this too, be it remembered, after serving so great a length of time at his vocation. We also mentioned that the horses should be suited to their work, and the coachman understand both : how is that person, then, transformed so suddenly into a coachman, who never in his life had any thing to do with horses till a few days ago ? Yet this we constantly see. We do not mean to argue that so many as thirty years are necessary to become a whip, or fix a precise time, but of this we are confident they do not buy the knowledge necessary to constitute them one with their first horse ; neither will they ever arrive at any excellence by using one or two horses only. Time, study, frequent change of nags, and a willingness to learn, are all necessary, but not to try what every one tells you. First find a good whip, learn all you can from him, and when you are really beginning to know something about the subject, you may listen to others who have the reputation of being whips, but not before, and where there seems reason on their side, give a fair and impartial trial to that portion of their theory which you think most advantageous ; it is only by taking all the good away from each that we can hope to excel, there never was yet, and never will be, any complete system either of driving, or any thing else connected with horses ; one may approach nearer to so desirable an object than another, but still perfection leaves them a long way in the distance, and you may take our word for it while you fancy you know all that

is requisite, (that you are a perfect whip,) you really do not know any thing about the subject ; and it is only when you have learned you do not know any thing ; that there is any hope of your ever improving.

BREAKING HORSES FOR HARNESS.

From this we are led to make remarks upon putting horses into harness. This is much better understood than it was a few years ago, but as there is still some trickery and the subject not yet being thoroughly understood, we feel called upon for a few remarks, and premise them by asserting there is no horse but will go quietly in harness, providing he is put in properly the first few times. This has ever been a favourite opinion of ours, and we have verified the supposition by extensive practice, and were none to attempt breaking them but those who thoroughly understood it, we should never hear of kickers, jibs, runaway horses, and a numerous train of evils attendant upon presumption and ignorance on the part of their teachers. The owners of horses are, however, themselves greatly to blame for this, as they improperly attribute considerable merit to the person who has a great deal of trouble with their horse, while the breaker who gets the animal to move on at once without any difficulty, has no credit given him ; on the contrary, the horse has all the praise for being so quiet, while some are so sagacious as to discover he must have been in harness before, and the owner regrets he did not try the horse himself, instead of paying for his being broke, and even sometimes will dispute paying the full sum, when it is so very evident the horse did not require trouble.

The breakers, therefore, consider it their business ; (interest being only another name for business,) to practice a deception which frequently prevents the horse going well in harness always after, if it does not blemish so as to reduce his value even as a saddle horse, but as that does not injure the breaker, the horse here receiving all the epithets of vicious, restive, and such other terms as are improperly applied to an unoffending ill-used animal. The means resorted to to make the horse appear all that is wrong to the master, requires the eye of a horseman ; we know not whether we should call it hawk's, lynx, or argus, but the eye must see not only every part of the horse, but the most trifling portion of the harness, and that too

not superficially, but so that he can detect the slightest variation from right, or most trifling alteration. The driver, too, must be distinctly and perfectly seen, even the slightest motion of a finger must not escape, for with a sharp bit, the slightest motion of the little finger may effect all the mischief. These are the favourite plans.

The young horse is put with an old one into the break, his traces being sometimes put the longest, and his reins the shortest; he attempts to move up to his collar, the reins being short, the check he receives from the bit sets him dancing and jumping about, according to the pain occasioned by the handling, and now he is driven forward and then drawn back, and the whip more or less used, according to the credit for skill which the breaker wishes to assume; sometimes by these means he over calculates his mark, and the horse turns out useless for harness, having imbibed some of the faults before mentioned to denominate him incurable, and so he certainly is, according to the generally adopted plan, but from experience we are justified in saying we have always found even horses thus spoiled become perfectly quiet even in harness, and many of them have we at different times had, and never in one instance been disappointed. As for those which have never been in harness, we would engage from having often done it, to put them into single harness at once, and drive from the west end of London to the bank, and back, the first day; all we require is one man to accompany us; generally, however, a much shorter distance is better. Another evil results from their plan; the horse is often thrown upon his hocks, if not his side also, and gets cut and knocked about, the blemished hocks not only getting him the reputation of being a kicker, but, as the mark is indelible, retaining it for him ever after, as no buyer will believe a seller in preference to his own eyes. We have even seen worse marks than these, the knees having been cut so as to leave an immovable blemish, thus most effectually engraving his price upon him, a greater prejudice now existing against broken knees than ever, since the citizens have become more fashionable, and all moved to the more courtly regions of the west, so that the term "City arms," which was applied to this blemish at the time their buyers were contented to live in the east, and buy such horses as the more fashionable cast off on account of their being thus marked, is now almost extinct. The dealers of the west, therefore, reserved them for their brothers, fellow traders at the opposite end of the town, observing, "We must send word to so-and-so we have got such a horse, as he is no use here; he has the city mark;"

which by degrees got called the city arms. Now, however, horses being thus scarred are immediately turned out of all respectable employment, their price is diminished amazingly, and according to their size you may at once say within ten shillings their value, there being only one class of customers for each sized horse when thus blemished ; but the same horse, perfect, might be of different values according to the work to which he was destined at different periods of his life ; but the fall which did this mischief places him in a continual situation of drudgery all the rest of his days ; he may be useful, and his price marked as such, but no fashionable value can he ever command again. Stage coachmen also serve an apprenticeship, beginning when quite children, about the yards and stables of public conveyances, they then assist the man appointed to the office, till they are allowed themselves to take the coaches to and from the makers for repairs, and to be greased, next the branch coaches, then drive coaches from the yard to the inn for the coachman and passengers ; the situation of extra coachman then follows, to drive for such as are unwell, or have a holiday, and in due time, from being short of hands or some other chance, they are appointed regular coachman. The pair-horse coachmen are also destined to the same training as those last described, except that they are seldom changed to a four-horse drag, unless by degrees their coach is altered, from more business or an opposition, first to a three, and then a four, and even then they generally get some brother whip, experienced in this more arduous task, to assist them at first, from their former training having learned enough to be aware they do not know sufficient to manage the extra cattle so dexterously and freely as they ought. Private or gentlemen's coachmen, who have left the stables in which they were trained before they were trusted with the ribbons of the leaders, or such as have never been in such stables, frequently use the following method while in the service of those who only keep a pair ; they induce some brother coachee, who has once been in four-horse service, and is only using his present two-horse place as a convenience till he can suit himself with a better, and who wishes to keep his hand in practice, to put his master's two with the other's two, and each drives alternately, till they are each satisfied with their own abilities. This is done early in the morning, for a double convenience ; there is no fear of being detected by their masters, whom they know to be in bed ; besides, at this early hour the purl is ready for stablemen at early exercise, with which the junior has to supply the superior coachman, to keep

the cold off his stomach, while, at the same time, it has the reputation of being a great steadier of the nerves, and imparting greater dexterity to the pupil.

SAFETY OF CARRIAGES.

How commonly do we see four-wheeled one-horse carriages used by those who would not ride in them were it not for safety ; to such we address ourselves to do away with the error. What is it that constitutes them safer than a two ? If the horse falls he does so only with the shafts, so that they are left in the body of the carriage in the same position and as safe as though no such accident had happened. This argument is good so far, but as there are ways of riding with just as little fear from the same accident in a two, and the chance of preventing many which may happen with the four, much more to be dreaded, besides the latter being much more inconvenient, we will state our reasons, and the way to ride without fear of the horse's prying. Have him with some equality of shape, that is, let the fore and hind quarter bear some proportion to one another. If you have a horse upright shouldered, take care that his hind quarters are well made for, or adapted to them, or, in other words, what is generally termed short and plain, and would be very ill made if placed on a horse with good fore-quarters. Let them be short, then there is less fear of the horse pushing himself forward on his head than with the handsome or lengthy hind quarter. But if safety is, as it ought to be, the first consideration, take care that the shoulder blades (not the whither,) are well sloped, and then you may rely on it, if the horse has good feet, legs, and courage, and you do not overwork him so as to make him leg-weary, that it will be almost impossible to throw him down. Thus far we have placed the carriages upon an equality for safety. Now for the disadvantages of the four wheels ; first, they require more care in adjusting the harness, otherwise, (particularly in going down hill,) the chaise will run against the hocks of the horse, and make him run away and kick, and when this takes place, you are so low as to be completely at the horse's mercy. In the two-wheeled

chaise, less mischief is likely to result from careless harnessing, and where the horse is properly placed for his work; if he kicks, he seldom does much mischief. Four-wheeled chaises are also much easier turned over, and though, if taking a great load is an advantage, that is counterbalanced by the heavy draft, rendering it a burthen to the horse whenever used, and only fit for extremely short journeys.

GINGER, FIGING, HALF A CORN.

Ginger,—this may almost be denominated the horse-dealer's spice; so useful is it to them, that you can never hardly find one without some in his pocket. We have applied the word useful as they apply it, and that profitably on all occasions. Their horses are subject to many irregularities of both work and temperature; to keep their horses with the bloom on them, they must not shew the water-marks, (interstices between the muscles,) therefore must not be used, so they get as fat as stall-fed bullocks, not getting enough of even walking exercise daily; their coats must also be kept fine, or the bloom is not complete. To effect this, they must be kept in warm stables, and warmly clothed, these clothes seldom being off for an instant, except to rub them down, and then they are again put on as speedily as possible, except when the horse has to make his appearance at a fair, and then he has to stand naked some hours. Here ginger comes into play; at the fair it has several uses, but though we name them all, we will take it in two distinct divisions, giving several reasons under one head; perhaps the buyers generally would put this one first, and as it is the most obvious, we will place it in that order, giving our reason when we come to the second, for considering it of least equal importance.

First, then, it is used with the intention of making the tail appear to be set higher on the back than it really is; also to make it more erect, for which it is termed cock-tail, and the operation of administering it is technically known by the terms of *figing*, and giving half a corn; this likewise makes the horse go more upon his haunches, with a lighter and more nimble gait behind, adding a more lively appearance

to the animal all over. These reasons, it will be admitted, are important to a seller, more particularly as they attach all the importance to the minor consideration, the erection of the tail, leaving the more important, which we have just enumerated, out of the question, not supposing for an instant the whole bearing and carriage of the horse is governed by this half corn,—this secret spring to his action.

To the second reason, and which we should have put first, but for popular prejudice, as we consider the half corn of quite as much importance to the seller, the health of the animal greatly depending upon it, as the former reason assists his sale. In fairs we have stated the horses stand about without clothes ; or where they are clothed, still they are in a cooler temperature than when at home, and their covering is mostly thinner ; they therefore get cold and chilly. The dealer no sooner sees a tendency to this, by the coat losing a little of its gloss, than the ginger goes to work, the tail rises, the horse stands more together and erect, he fidgets, looks lively, gets warm, and down goes his coat, looking glossy as before, and his head is once more erect. Let irritation be any where about the hind quarters, whether it arises from ginger, or pain, from a spavin, or any other lameness, the horse is sure to erect his head ; this is important to recollect in buying. You may condemn ginger, and the art which you suppose uses it, but let me ask whether, if you were a dealer, you would not, now that you are aware of its uses, apply it to the same purpose ; and whether you could expect customers to come and buy your horses, standing all abroad, loose, lengthy, with their heads low, and their coats staring ? for such would be the appearance without the *spice*, when all those around you looked so much better. We can tell you the result ; you would not be troubled to shew your horses ; they would be condemned as *rotten*, a favourite term with dealers, implying diseased, without a chance of doing well again.

After the fair, ginger is again in request ; to avoid sickness amongst their horses, they know they must give them each a cordial ball, the principle ingredient of which is ginger. This is the necessary custom at fairs, by all dealers fair and unfair, but the fair ones require it most generally, dealing in a better and more valuable class of horses, their condition being nearest the bloom and most easily injured. The town dealer's horses, you will say, are not thus exposed. True, but they are kept so much warmer, and in so much fatter condition, that unless they get the half corn, the moment their

cloths are off, up rises their coats, "like quills upon the fretful porcupine," so that by the time the horse has got to the wall for show, part of the bloom which has been the cause of his selection, having vanished, he is ordered in as an ordinary-looking animal. Besides, independent of his coat, he would be stripped of the other advantages attending the operation in his gait and looks just enumerated. Have you never observed how very different any horse you have purchased of a dealer looked in a few days after, and that it was sometime before they again looked right, although never as before, except where they have undergone the training recommended in one of our former numbers, and then they have improved in every way. So common is ginger with dealers, and its effects so universally known amongst them, that they use it as a figure of speech to one another; thus, one dealer has a customer in want of a particular kind of horse, which he does not immediately know where to procure, so off he starts on a reconnoitering expedition to the different yards, enquiring as he goes, if they know of a gingery little horse, adding, if you do, I know where to place him. While others, the majority perhaps, would say a spicy horse, at any rate if applied to more than a pony. This is a very pithy and proper way of describing what they require without circumlocution and useless waste of words, though, to the uninitiated, it may appear obscure. To prove that it is not so, we will describe their meaning. What they require, then, is a nice, compact, lively, horse, well on his haunches, head and tail up—in a word, looking as if he were spiced or corned (gingered), without being so. A gingerly horse, when the term is properly applied, means a hot, fidgety temper, such as cannot be put up with for anything else than harness, or in a pony, and here a little warmth of temper is generally liked by those grown people who use little horses, that is, under fourteen hands; they then seem to think spirit makes up for size, and is a sort of excuse for using Lilliput horses. The observation "I know where to place him," means, they have a certain customer, who will pay for the horse the moment he is delivered, they having sufficient influence over their customer for him to take their word for its answering his purpose. Until buyers see horses differently from the way they now do, so as to allow the dealer to feed and exercise his horses differently, he can no more do without ginger than without corn. Whether that time will ever arrive, when all buyers are sufficient judges, is a question not worth consideration at present, all the observation necessary to make is, that now nine hundred and ninety-nine out of

the thousand self-constituted judges, are a dreadful long way from this approach to perfection.

COLD CHILLS AND GRIPES.

We cannot do better to conclude this article than by recommending the use of ginger, and that too in giving half a corn to your horse, whenever you find him shiver in the stable, whether it arise from drinking a large quantity of cold water immediately he was put into the stable, or from having fasted too long in travelling, or being put to too much work immediately after an illness; however, we will not enumerate any more causes, let the shivering arise from what it will it is wrong, and the sooner this is done and the horse begins to feed, the better. From experience, we must say ginger on the cocktail system, stands pre-eminent, and induces him to feed sooner than any other remedy. Should the horse be attacked by cholic, try ginger first of all in the way just mentioned; we have ever found this, and having the horse well rubbed under the stomach, and between the legs, particularly the hind ones, a sovereign remedy. Although ginger is strongly recommended when required, as in these two last cases, yet the indiscriminate use of it does mischief, by making the parts too lax, so that the horse cannot carry his tail without it, till after the spice has been discontinued long enough for the muscles to recover their tone.

Having given the derivation of the two terms gingery and spicy, the third of figging remains to be explained, and this is rather more difficult; a person dressed out, and seeming conscious of it, is said to be fresh figged, or newly figged, but whether the expression is conveyed from the biped to the quadruped, or from the latter to the former, we have never been able to ascertain. If your horse should have any of the attacks named requiring ginger, and you cannot procure it, whole or ground pepper will answer the purpose, but this should never be used where ginger can be purchased.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

B. C. may have a saddle covered with woollen velveteen, nearly the colour of leather. His breeches may be strapped with a piece of the same, down the inside of the legs the colour of his smalls, when no one will be able to perceive he has a safety saddle, and is "altered to a nervous rider." This will answer quite as well as plush, if not better, and wear nearly as long as leather.

R. T.—When mentioning the merits of potatoes it was meant instead of oats. There can be no question as to their being more nutritious than hay, and where substituted for the latter, less weight should be given; a little chaff with them is best.

DEALERS.—*Continued.*

Who of all the purchasers of horses a few years back, does not recollect the dealers' walls, the regular uniformity of colour from the highest to the lowest, there was not any difference. They looked as uniform as though they had been under military regulation. Yellow or gravel colour from the ground to about four feet high, surmounted by a broad black line about four inches deep, all above was as bright and clean as white wash could make it. All this cleanliness and neatness had a motive, which was some years before it met the eye, at last it was discovered, and got to be so universally known, that it would answer the purpose no longer, or rather, every one almost having been sufferers by it, and generally pointing out the deception, the more respectable class of dealers had the good sense to see it was no longer useful, and served only as a sort of placard to say a little roguery practised here. Now no highwayman ever yet wrote "Beware of me, a thief," upon his front, whatever nature may have done by way of warning. There are respectable dealers we have before shewn, who act as fairly as any other class of traders, and therefore we apply the term good sense to their doing away with this notice of rascality and trickery; the other yards, or rather the occupiers, saw at once the drift and improvement, but then what was to be done? Defective horses must be bought and sold now as well as before; they were violent against the higher order of their profession, and denounced them as fools who did not know their business. But necessity is the mother of invention, and no class of men have more of this ingenuity than they, and when once they set it at work, you may reckon the deed accomplished; they seem to be all of one family, and to have descended from the old man with the bundle of sticks; they are so united in their determination to be more than on a par with their customers, and any thing new discovered by them the more readily to gull, is at once public property, so far as their body politic is concerned, but no further; there is a sort of free-masonry amongst them, by which their secrets are strictly confined within the precincts of the prison house. The first instruction to a boy on entering stables, is to see all and say nothing, and most religiously are they made to keep it; no other crime is so severely punished as that of saying anything about the stable, unless it be in praise of the management or the horses, but even in what that management consists, if questioned, they dare not give a plain and straightforward answer; this would be divulging a secret, and therefore all he says is to mislead. Who has not observed dealers, when speaking to you,

never look you in the face like other people, and that they have that fixed countenance peculiar to gamblers, not a single expression in it; that it must take much time and trouble to accomplish this mastery over the muscles of the face, to hide the feelings, there cannot be a doubt. Will people take this trouble without some motive? and is not interest the powerful lever by which their actions are governed? Does any plain and straightforward transaction require a disguise, and are not the features proverbially honest? We are told the tongue may prevaricate, but look the person steadfastly in the face and the lie is plainly given to the tongue. The highwayman *wears a mask* that he may not be known. The rogueish dealer *MASKS HIS FEATURES* to hide the robbery. Only observe, too, the unmeaning evasiveness of the eye, though looking into your very soul, and watching every expression, with what a dull, heavy, leaden, and evasive look, as though they were not noticing any thing. We detest every person possessing such features, let them be what or whom they may, and caution any one from having the least thing to do with them. Whether it should be found in the dealer in a farthing's worth of snuff, or the greatest man of the age, "an honest man's the noblest work of God." An honest countenance is stamped on all, until, it being ashamed of the deeds of those who own it, it throws off nature's garb of honesty, and points the possessor out to those who have discretion enough to profit by the notice, as rocks which are to be avoided. Aye, and in dealers is it so! The only men with whom we would trust one not intimately acquainted, not only with the horse, but the men who deal in them, bear as honest indices to the mind as any men we ever saw. Neither have they the short, broken, snappy language so peculiar to their trade. Though we have anticipated that all those who bought horses at the time of the yellow and white walls, are acquainted with their use; yet there are many who were then too young, who may be our readers; we will therefore tell the advantages it possessed till discovered. The horse is always placed against a wall to be shown, the colour of the wall is sure to be reflected in his eye, and cataracts being white, a white reflection hides them, even to those who have had some experience. The inventive faculties of these dealers we have just said is great, and that the united body set their fertile imaginations, for such they are where trickery in horses is concerned, but no further, to discover an equally good substitute that they might also adopt the new fashion, and get rid of the odium. It was then discovered a small piece of white answered equally well with a large, and therefore the man who showed the horse would do by wearing something white; he therefore throws the shade of his arm or the breast of his shirt or jacket, if a light coloured one, over the eye.

This answers full as well, and the dark wall possesses its advantages with clouded eyes, and where the papils are cloudy and thick, partaking of the yellow and lead colour which surrounds them ; the reflection is an excuse readily credited by the purchaser, if he is previously captivated by the appearance and action of the horse. Horses with these eyes, although nearly blind, yet see sufficiently not to run against a wall or a coach ; but their action is usually high, and of that cast so peculiar to blind horses.

A PERFECT LEAPER.

The daring impudence with which these horses, and even worse, are sometimes warranted, is scarcely to be credited, yet we will relate one instance.

A riding master since dead, who was known for many years on the Surrey side of the water, bought a pony, stone blind, for a gentleman. When the gentleman saw it, he said, he feared his eyes were not good. This the crafty old fellow feigned astonishment at, and ordered the horse to be turned loose in the school, saying, he had the best eyes he ever saw, and that it was impossible he ever could go blind ; but if, as Mr. K. supposed, they were bad, he would run against the wall when the proposed experiment was tried. This the riding master knew well from the school being a circular one, and the boards projecting in a slanting position from the wall, the horse could not do, but while urged on, must continue like a horse in a mill. He then, as a proof of docility, shewed Mr. K. how readily he stopped on his ceasing to torment him with the whip and calling to him to halt. Still, though Mr. K. was staggered, he was not quite convinced. Poor old —— was almost at his wits' ends ; it was important that he should make his patron, for such Mr. K. had been to him, and at that moment he was greatly indebted to him, and was shewing this stone-blind pony as security for forty pounds. A desperate effort must be made ; the ostler was ordered to put up the bar for the pony to leap over ; it being decided by the interested party and acceded to by Mr. K., a blind horse could not see to leap the bar. Having agreed so far, the next difficulty to get over was persuading Mr. K. to implicit belief in the difference between the way a young horse jumped (one not used to his leaps) and an old hunter. He then dilated upon the qualities of the pony for the latter purpose, till, seeing how far he could go, he swore the pony had been a great favourite with a well known sporting character, who had ridden it hundreds of times in the field, and who declared he was the best hunter he ever rode, and would always have used him for the purpose, only it looked so insignificant and unsportsmanlike to be

seen on so small an animal. He then said, but sir you shall now see him go over the bar, and he will shew the old hunter at once by first trying to knock the bar down. Poor beast, and sure enough he did run against the bar, with such vengeance, as to tumble right over the bar, so as almost to break his neck ; the ostler, as preconcerted, was rated violently for fixing the bar, and Mr. K. began to be a little angry, but was soothed into good humour and persuaded to see the horse go over once more, when the horse was merely to feel the bar with his legs in the style of an old hunter. He did scramble over somehow two or three times, when Mr. K. went away satisfied that the horse could see ; so much so, that he agreed to hold the horse for forty pounds as security for that sum for a short time. If he was not redeemed by that time, he was to be at liberty to keep or dispose of him. Need we add the blindness was soon discovered, and that the pony was never redeemed, the seller insisting the horse had got blind in Mr. K.'s service after he had sold it, and the purchaser considering the first loss the best.

STABLE MANAGEMENT.

WHERE no stud groom is kept, or one that is not far better acquainted with horses than yourself, have a report made every morning at breakfast time of the state of your horse's health. By this precaution much mischief and expence may be avoided. The horse is naturally a healthy animal. His diseases are few, and seldom complicated ; yet these few, and the approaches to them, are seldom understood by grooms, though all profess to know ; thus arises the injury. The diseases of the horse are mostly inflammatory, whether we regard illness generally so termed, or lameness ; in the latter cases it is always inflammation, for where inflammation does not exist, there is no pain, consequently no lameness, as it is only by trying to save the injured limb from pressure that the horse shews he is in pain. Grooms, had we not known from experience to the contrary, we should have thought would have noticed at the very earliest stages any uncomfortable feeling of the horse, which he always shews by an altered posture, from that which he used before disease affected the limb. But this they rarely do, until pain so acute as to produce a troublesome and palpable lameness, perhaps irremediable, has, from neglecting trifles, become permanently fixed, or probably, when the lameness is so evident, that even those not acquainted with horses can plainly perceive he nods his head, the groom makes use of some of his *valuable never failing receipts*, which being generally the very opposite to all

antidote, only aggravate the disease, till the lameness is past remedy, and now the veterinary surgeon is sent for, who, after trying those remedies, which had they been applied at an early stage of the disease, would have affected a cure in a few days at a slight expence, he is obliged to proclaim his labour useless, the disease from neglect or improper treatment having become permanent. Whenever any of your horses are perceived altering the position they used to assume, let poultices be applied to the foot of the limb which appears to be the cause of uneasiness, and give mashes and other cooling food mentioned in a former number, and a dose of physic; should it not yield to these remedies in four or five days, bleeding at the toe may assist. He should have no other exercise than that which he chooses to take in a loose box, and if this cannot be allowed, he had better not be moved out of his stall till you imagine he is better, and then only for a few yards to see how he is. When he has been quite free from all uneasiness for a few days, or a week, he may be put to gentle work again. Here we mean when the remedy has begun at uneasiness; should it have been neglected till considerable lameness has ensued, at least one month's rest should be given on soft wet ground, where the hoofs are thick and strong; where this cannot be obtained, from the dryness of the season, a loose box, with wet clay at least eight or ten inches thick, giving the horse cooling food, is the best remedy.

A straw yard will suggest itself to you for the winter; avoid it. Your loose box will serve the purpose better, with wet clay and the cooling food; but as we have a great deal more to say concerning straw yards, we must devote a chapter to this subject on some future occasion. Or where the hoofs are thin and flat, the loose box and the pitch stopping, daily applied, will be found the best remedy, keeping the bottom of the box dry, so that his feet may meet with as little moisture as possible. Having mentioned the approaches of the diseases of their limbs, we will now endeavour to assist in detecting those of the body, which are generally more fatal and much more rapid in their effects. These are mostly inflammatory also, and rarely make their appearance without being preceded by a slight cough, which stablemen describe as the horse trying to sham a cough, and they attribute it to the cunning of the animal. To those who know from what it proceeds, and to what it is a prelude, this cough so lightly thought of by the stablemen, is most distressing; while the full bold cough which alarms the ignoramus and brings all his quackery into play, is hardly worth notice compared to the other. A bold cough needs no description, it is plainly understood by every one; we have only, therefore, to observe, bran mashes and a cooling diet should be tried for two or three days, when, if it does not decrease,

take three or four quarts of blood: if not gone at the end of a week repeat the bleeding. Now for the treacherous cough, by the groom ascribed to cunning; by the veterinarian, with justice, to pain and soreness of the chest. This cough is frequently so low, a person not acquainted with its consequences would hardly hear it, and if he did, would not notice so slight a sound. The horseman's ears are, however, quicker to the miserable noise, which touches him like an electric shock, while the other who did not receive it, is astonished at his alarm. The one knows it is the prolude to inflamed lungs, or that even worse disease which goes all through the stable, unless very active measures are resorted to to arrest its progress. This dreadful cough certainly does not make much noise, nor does it seem to require any great effort of the animal, it sounding like the finishing cough of a badly broken-winded horse, and those who have once heard the latter can never forget it. The moment this suppressed cough is heard in the stable, use prompt and decisive measures; there is no time for hesitation; in a few hours it must be terminated one way or the other. If you take five or six quarts of blood and give the cooling diet on its first appearance, you most probably have at once driven it away; wait beyond, and you must bleed to faintness, most probably, more than once before your horse is out of danger. Keep the bowels open with mashes and cooling diet, and give one ounce of spirits of nitre in a pint of tepid water, once or twice a day, till the pulse are reduced. This being a dangerous disease, it is better, where you have a veterinary surgeon near you, to send for him the moment a cough first appears amongst your horses, when serious after illness, much nursing, and expence, will be spared, by the disease being crushed at its commencement.

Out of a spirit of saving we know it is that professional aid is not called in much sooner than it is, but this is a bad error to fall into; and a very mistaken one. We have shewn in this disease, that bleeding properly at first, at once prevents the disease, and this with one or two cooling draughts would be the extent of the professional bill: you try to save this; what is the consequence? Your groom quacks away, the horse gets worse; when at Death's door, do you send for the knacker? "Oh, no! I send for the veterinary surgeon !!!" He sees the case is hopeless, yet concludes as long as life remains there is some chance; his bill is about twenty times greater than it would have been at first, or perhaps more, and then he would have prevented the illness altogether; now, if the horse recovers, it is a chance if there are not sufficient evils left behind to render him not worth the physic he has taken, besides the length of time and nursing required to render him

of the least use. Or should you not have sent till the disease was a little further advanced, the horse's sufferings are for a short period prolonged, but the remedy is too late to arrest the disease, which terminates fatally ; and if you are wise you will consider the veterinarian's bill as a caution left by the deceased horse to guard you against quackery in future ; most of the diseases of the horse being inflammatory, and terminating fatally unless their progress is arrested in a few hours. Where proper remedies are used, this brief space of time places them out of danger. That some of *the complaints* we receive of "disreputable men being in the veterinary profession," we know is just, and that "their only study is to make long bills;" yet this must not condemn the whole, as there are many highly respectable and honourable men following the profession, and it only requires discrimination in the selection. Are there not in every walk of life, members of it which are not only a disgrace to the society in which chance has placed them, but of human nature. Where the diseases are a want of sufficient inflammatory action, give tonics, the best of which is plenty of good corn ; and as the digestion is mostly weak, it will be better for the horse if his oats be soaked in water for four or five hours before they are given to him ; changing his food too, also assists ; and here nearly all the different kinds before mentioned may be given, if he seem to have any appetite for them. Should he, however, not be easily tempted, give the following balls :—

1 oz. of Aniseed.

1 oz. of Fenugreek.

1 oz. of Diapete.

Let these be mixed with honey, or any thing generally used for forming balls, divide into three and give one each morning as long as they last. If by these means he does not feed, you have most probably mistaken his disease. This being the case, we need not suggest the veterinarian cannot be too early consulted.

REPOSITORIES.

In a former number we pointed out the defects of stage-coach horses for any other purpose, but in consequence of some questions having been sent, we shall make a few further observations.

Often, we will not say, the proportion which genuine sales of stage-coach horses bear to the sham ones, but they are greater than the sham furniture

auctions to the real ones. They are also carried on with more audacity, assuming greater airs of genuineness, having not only the name of an owner given them, but that of the coach they worked, and the road they ran. Yet with all this appearance of coach stock, these horses have not only never been engaged in the way stated, but have probably never been in harness at all. While to give them a still more genuine harness appearance, the hair is sometimes shaved away at such parts as it is generally worn where they have a great deal of this work to perform. Even sore shoulders on the places where the collar would wear, have been made to horses that never drew a yard.

How any stage-coach master, with any character of respectability to lose, can be tempted to suffer himself to be made such a cat's-paw of, is what creates the astonishment. In the sale of stocks there is no warranty ; but being stage-coach horses, they must of necessity have been in harness, says the purchaser. He takes home his horse, and probably some accident occurs. He cannot return the horse, so has to send it for sale, which he most probably does to the same repository again. Little does he dream he is the first who ever tried the horse in harness, or that the horse never belonged to the man whose horse he was represented to have been. Such fiendish tricks are everlastingly being played ; the keepers of some of these establishments not valuing the lives and limbs of their fellow-creatures at a straw. How is the stage-coach master engaged in such a species of robbery, is the next question, the supposition being that he can have no profit where the horses do not belong to him ? He is paid for his name ; literally sells his respectability for a trifle : or he is over head and ears in debt to the repository-keeper, and a fellow without spirit enough to say his soul is his own, therefore stoops to be the veriest slave of an unprincipled scoundrel ; suffering his honour, honesty, and every thing which man ought to value most, to be blasted, that he may not so soon be crushed by a vulgar, bullying tyrant. Still there exist others still more to be deprecated than even this fallen wretch ; and this is the coach-master ; not in the tyrant's power, who is induced for money to lend his name to deeds, which even a Turpin would have felt himself disgraced by doing ; yet we find there are such beings, and their price is from ten to fifty pounds, this latter, however, is a sum which few of them are bought at, their value more commonly ranging between ten and thirty pounds, and for this they will suffer their name to be used as a guarantee to quietness of more than one hundred horses which they never saw, and out of which number they may rely few have been at all in harness ; and that several accidents of greater or lesser evil must arise. A short time

since, a gentleman bought a chesnut horse at one of these sales ; he put it into his chaise : the horse went very awkwardly ; this was attributed to his *only being used to double-harness*. Himself and servant got as far as Kensington tolerably well, when the horse bolted, threw them both out, and broke the chaise so badly, it was obliged to be carried home in a cart. An elderly woman was nearly killed ; and the gentleman and his servant much hurt. This gentleman took the precaution to ask, prior to bidding, whether the horse went in harness ? *Certainly*, was the reply : but I cannot warrant in a stock, for if I made one exception, I must warrant all, and my *employer* has not given me any instructions for warranting any of them. Yet immediately after this was sold, he did warrant another horse of the same stock, upon the question being put to him as quiet in both double and single harness, observing, his employer he knew had driven him in single harness, as he had sat behind him himself, and it was one of the best horses he ever knew.

This being one of the mock stage-coach sales—if this did not imply he knew, either that the one horse did not go in harness at all, or that he knew nothing about him, further than that he did not wish him returned, which he most assuredly would have been had he given any warranty.

Does this not show a recklessness of human life and suffering, which calls for a severe example ? Any man so callous to every good feeling, can only be constrained by the strongest measures. By these sales he knows not how many families he may render fatherless ; or reduce from respectable comfort to penury, by the injuries his robberies may effect : we cannot find language to express ourselves ; the paltry gain which he plunders from each individual being nothing when compared to the bodily injuries which are inflicted. Can it be credited that these fellows, when informed of any accident which occurs through their roguery, only laugh at it when they get amongst their fellows, and it is agreed on all hands, that the buyer should have taken more care, and that he was a fool to buy a horse he did not know more of ? While some of the repositories are carried on as they are, we recommend no one to be “penny-wise,” but the moment they have bought their horse, let them get some one not in any way connected with the yard to put it into harness for them, once at least.

This may save them many pounds in doctor’s bills, if not an injury which may keep with them to the grave.

VETERINARY OPINIONS.

HAVING proceeded, step by step, to put the horse purchaser upon his guard, and place the horse-dealer in the situation which he ought to hold in society ; the groom, the coachman, and the rest of those who have to do with horses, have also had their good and bad qualities poised against one another, we hope with an impartial hand—truth and justice being what we wish to promulgate, where it is evident, if such be found to be the case that indignation has occasionally made us more severe than our editorial criticism will allow ; we hope our readers will give the chastised party the benefit of any doubt which they may have as to the strictness of the censure.

These observations we are led into, as we have now to perform the most unpleasant part of our task, though pointing out the peccadilloes and frailties of human nature is by no means a pleasant task at any time, yet faults long uncensured, are after a time considered virtues by the perpetrators. It is, therefore necessary a censor should be found ; and he who performs that unpleasant office soonest, proves himself the party's greatest friend. Had some other editor been kind enough to have taken our task earlier, the evils of which we have complained would never have been so great. Neither should we probably have had to point out any part of that profession, which every admirer of horses must always wish to see composed of the most respectable and honourable of men, as men which would have disgraced any situation of life, as grooms, horse-dealers, or what you will ; unworthy and improper characters they must have been, nay, not only would they have been all this, and even more, when connected with the stable, but let them be placed where or in whatever situation they could possibly be, still would they be equally dishonourable members of society. We are therefore sorry that any of them should by any chance have become members of a profession which we hold in the highest esteem, considering them of the highest importance both to the horse and his master : through their aid, is this noble animal not only rendered for a longer period serviceable to man, but their assistance also saves him much unnecessary pain, and where they are to be relied upon they are of great service to the purchaser of that noble quadruped, whose comforts ought to be their study. There are, however, several reasons which render many of them very unfit for the task of examiner between buyer and seller. Being a veterinary surgeon is not alone sufficient ; he may not have sufficient practice in buying and selling ; and unless he has this, his being clever as a practitioner in other respects, will not serve him

here. We have before said it requires great quickness, and that the eye must see the horse all over at a glance. To examine a horse in the cool, steady way which we have seen some of those who thought themselves wonderfully clever gentlemen, would take nearly as long a time as would wear out the horse, so that they only half finish their task, and therefore allow their employer to be taken in. Another is a good theorist, but not a practical man: while others worship the golden god too much to be honest. While one is sacrificing his employer one way for gain, another is using quite opposite means, the poor horse being the instrument used for extracting the coin.

These several reasons we must now consider, to see how to render the services of that profession to which all horsemen ought to look for assistance to arrive at the acme of perfection in this knowledge. Some, we have said, are only theoretical horsemen, and many who are clever as horse surgeons, never attain any perfection as judges of that animal on whom they have to exercise their abilities; they may be acquainted with the animal, know whether it is diseased or well, and what are the best remedies; they may also have a good anatomical knowledge of the animal, which will enable them to put his skeleton together with alacrity and precision, but there is a want of that knowledge of the effects of the different positions in which the bones are placed, and the effects of the different processes on their assuming various positions in the living animal. Neither are they unacquainted with muscles and their uses in a general way, and this theoretically. This, to those who are fond of horses, may at first seem strange. The animal, alive and at work, they know little of, and care as little about; they are veterinary surgeons, *not* from devotion to the horse and a wish to relieve him as much as possible from his suffering, but because they consider it one of the readiest means of profit.

To be a horseman we must have a superior exciting power to that grand mover, pecuniary interest. We must study the horse for that animal's sake alone; it must be the feeling, the wish to serve him which must urge us, not only to study him in a morbid state, and in disease, but we must watch him closely and narrowly in health also, and that too on a large scale; it is not the study of one or two, nor one hundred horses that will make us intimately acquainted with him. Horses, very similar to one another in make and in size, have very different action; those well acquainted with the horse, and have thoroughly studied him under all circumstances, can tell without seeing him move, from the position of the muscles and bones, what the action of each horse will be when they are put in motion, consequently which will

be the fauter of the two. It is only by studying them in this state also that we can acquire a sufficient knowledge of the soundness of the animal, and he who does not take a pleasure and a pride in them, can never hope to succeed sufficiently to cope with some of the fraternity whom we have so roughly handled, and with whom, from being dealers in the animal, they are most likely to come in contact with. However, with these we have no quarrel when they act honestly, that is, protect their employer to the best of their ability, as they are not the only men who have overrated their abilities, nor are they the only ones who look more to the profit than the honour of the profession. But those veterinarians who, either from the want of requisite knowledge, as just mentioned, or from cupidity, *make tools of the dealers, by the sacrifice of whose profit they create a larger for themselves*; or, *those who sell their employer to the dealer*; we find ourselves at a loss for words to express our indignation at such abominable robberies, and will do the best we can to put an end to it by exposing the quackery resorted to. You are about to purchase a horse of some value, you do not like to run the risk incurred by taking a dealer's warranty of the chances of its not fulfilling its conditions, with the trouble of returning after the money is paid, together with the probability of law expences, the delay, the anxiety, and all the other et-ceteras attendant upon these proceedings; you therefore take him to a veterinary surgeon for his opinion, the chances are ten to one he pronounces the horse unsound. You congratulate yourself on the fortunate escape you have made from the evils mentioned, cry up the professional for having discovered that which you, with all your care, could never have seen, and make up your mind you will not buy another horse without taking him to the same place. Were the horse really unsound all this would be right enough, probably (although presently we have to say more upon soundness and unsoundness, with slight deviations.) But the annoying part of it is, that some of these examiners, one in particular, being a loyal subject, has too great a veneration for the likeness of his majesty not to wish to accumulate as many half guineas as he can, and he makes a rule of rejecting two out of every three sound horses which are brought to him as unsound; by this manœuvre he therefore contrives to get one pound eleven shillings and sixpence out of every deal that comes under his inspection, instead of ten shillings and sixpence. He does not obtain this sum from every individual, though by some paying much more than others it averages this amount; yet now and then you are fortunate enough to be the third in this estimate, and get off for the smallest sum. This uncle's principle of two out of three, not being quite sufficient to satisfy the tender conscience

of this professional gentleman, we will just inform you of a few of the low tricks his rapacity has induced him to resort to in our presence, to still further ingratiate and make his services appear still more indispensable.

A gentleman from Shropshire, Mr. B., wanted to sell a chesnut horse. Another gentleman, Mr. S., holding a high official situation in one of our colonies, and whose leave of absence had just expired, agreed to purchase this horse to take out with him, providing this examiner passed it as a sound one: he did so, and received his fee. Mr. S. and Mr. B. proceeded up the yard together, and agreed that the bargain was concluded, when the examiner came forward and said in an under tone to Mr. S., "but the horse may fall down one of these days." This intimation on all other occasions had met with a different reception from the one it now received; before it had always caused the rejection of the horse, and been the sure forerunner of a few more examinations; now, however, he was astounded by Mr. S. turning round and observing, "and pray Sir, may we not all fall down some of these days? Know Sir, that I am a judge, and were it not that I have a particular wish to take that horse out with me, I should reject it on purpose that Mr. B. might bring an action against you, as you have taken an illegal and unanswerable liberty." This was a rebuke the fee-hunter did not expect, and his confusion was proportionate. On another occasion, a Captain G. took a horse to be examined at the same place. The question was asked whether he had bought it. On receiving yes, as the reply, he observed, I wish you had come to me before, when I should have recommended you not to have had any thing to do with him. Captain G., in a fright, sold him to Mr. F., who kept him for many years, he proving the best horse he ever had in his life, never being either sick or sorry, and always doing the most work. On another occasion, a chesnut mare was sent to the college by a subscriber, for examination in the morning, and pronounced sound; the gentleman who sent her there, on her return placed her by the side of another horse with which he wanted her to run in his phæton, when she proved too small. Another gentleman, however, agreed to purchase her two or three hours after, on condition, that she passed the examiner before alluded to; he pronounced her unsound. The next morning she was taken by another gentleman, and then this very same professional who said she was unsound a few hours after the college had given their opinion to the contrary, a few hours after again pronounced her sound. So that either the mare, or he whose business it was to know better, was more variable than the wind. One more case, and we will have done with him, as sufficient will have been proved to shew either that he is ignorant of his business, or that he is counting upon

the half guineas while he ought to be examining horses; and what seems the most ridiculous part of it is, he takes more apparent pains, and makes a greater parade and mystery of the thing, than we ever saw displayed by any other person. Did we not consider that from his education and other circumstances that he must, however dotter-headed nature may have formed him, know some little of the horse, we should at once pronounced him a perfect noodle, as far as they are concerned; and more than that we neither knew or wish to know about him.

Had he not displayed, hundreds of times, by his decisions, either consummate ignorance of that part of his practice we are more immediately calling in question; the display would have been sufficient to have disgusted and made us doubt him, as it does every man who displays mystery and trickery. No clever man, no man who thoroughly understands his business, resorts to mean and petty arts to make it appear difficult; on the contrary, completely understanding it, you only stem astonished you cannot yourself do that which appears to be so easy to another, and you respect that genius which seems not to meet with difficulties, or no easily to overcome them. The last case then which we shall mention, was with a brown-mare, which had been husted regularly to the middle of the season. A Mr. C. offered to take her if she passed the college; there were some small surfeit spots just above the tail were pointed out, and the intended purchaser was told they might be farcy-buds, though they did not think it likely, yet to make sure, it would be better for the seller to take her home and bleed her, when they would disappear in two or three days. Mr. C. said he was not anxious for the mare he would not look for any other for a fortnight. The seller however said, if he had an offer in the interim, he should not reserve her. On getting home, the seller was met at the door by Col. A., who was requested to call by a Captain C. to say that the latter had left London, but that he would take the mare if Col. A. would see that she was passed by the examiner before alluded to. The owner related what had just passed; when the Col. said, if the same answer is now given I will venture to purchase the mare on my own responsibility. She was taken and rode about the yard by the examiner's man, her legs were then washed with warm water, and she was put in the stable for half an hour; at the end of that period she was again brought out and galloped and trotted about; again her legs were washed with warm water, and she was once more put in the stable. On the third time of her being brought out, the owner ventured to observe, that he had only rode from the college home, and back; and to the observations there made, he turned up his nose, observing contemptuously; if they could

find no other fault but that—here he stopped. Then observed, those spots are not worth noticing." He was then asked what he could require with the mare so long, to which the only reply he deigned to make, was to order her once more into the stable. She was now detained one hour and a half longer, being brought out every half-hour so that altogether she was out six times, and the owner considered very fairly that three hours was plenty of time for a professional man to come to a decision, and therefore requested one as he could not be detained any longer. It was brief enough, "The mare then I consider unsound." The owner, astonished, requested to know in what the unsoundness consisted, and where, but was told he was not to be satisfied, and departed not at all satisfied. He met the Col. on the road, who said he would feel obliged if the owner would once more go to the examiner and request a written decision, with the cause. The owner replied, it would not be of the least use, but the Col. repeating his request, and desiring, if he did not readily comply, that he should be told that he desired such a document should be given. We have the precious note to this hour, which we keep as a curiosity; it would take too much time to find it now while the printers are waiting, but the principal words are, "The mare is sound," mark the qualification, "with the exception of a trifling dwelling in the action of the near fore foot, which very probably may be caused by the shoes."

This note was taken with the mare to the Col., who smiled at it, and observed to the owner, do you find any dwelling or peculiarity of action, because I cannot see any. The owner agreed to warrant it, spite of the opinion. The Col. bought the mare for his friend, taking the dealer's warranty, for such was the seller in preference to the opinion of the clever examiner. The horse turned out the best Captain C. ever had, and after two years wear, he sold her for a considerable sum more than he paid.

Has not the dealer a right to complain of unjust treatment in the cases related? We shall, however, next show how some of these work together to the injury of the public and the fair trader. That any one belonging to the profession was so completely lost as to take all the odium of the most rascally of the dealers, we could not bring our minds to conceive, though we neither could divine what made a certain portion of these so anxious to have their horses examined in preference to giving a warranty, nor the art by which they could hide the glaring defects even for the short period required for examination, for so very unsound have we seen them, that even the intended purchaser has said, he could himself see they were lame, but the daring impudence with which the dealer has insisted upon their soundness, and the vehemence with which he has urged their being taken before

a veterinary surgeon, has so convinced the intended dupe, who has already been much pleased with the beauty of the horse, and is anxious to catch at any thing sooner than be deprived of the opportunity of possessing so desirable an object; more particularly as the dealer makes use of a stratagem which he construes into liberality, and that is, if the examiner decides the horse is sound, he is to pay for the inspection, but should he be pronounced unsound, then the intended purchaser is to pay. This is the proposition, when the wily dealer is in doubt as to whose inspection the horse will be submitted. Should he be able to arrange beyond a doubt that the horse will be taken to one whom he knows will pass it, then he reverses the proposition, so that he is sure to be no loser in either case. Another way they have of contriving you shall go to their man, by requesting to know who is your veterinary surgeon, they then pretend to have some reason for objecting to him, and observe, any one but him. Another is named, the same observation, or the horse cannot be allowed to go so far from home, as they are expecting some one to see him every instant, and by going so far they may lose a customer.

(To be continued.)

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. Z., having plates of the horse's mouth, with descriptions of his age, we know not how to make the theory easier, so as to assist him in discovering whether he is taken in as regards the age of his last purchase. We therefore consider he had better show him to a practical man, well acquainted with the age of the horse under all circumstances, as the food the horse is accustomed to, will make great alterations in the marks of the teeth, besides some teeth being softer than others, lose their marks much earlier than others.

We have seen horses at five years old with the mark almost obliterated. Though the plates will assist as a general rule, yet it should be borne in mind, there is no rule without an exception, and that no man should be branded with the name of rogue and thief until he is proved such; particularly where the evidence is in your own keeping.

Popular prejudice running against those of his calling, does not justify the accusation, and we strongly suspect A. Z. is wrong, from his own shewing.

VETERINARY OPINIONS.—*Continued.*

Sometimes they will propose that the question be decided by three, when they generally mention something, *by accident of course*, which will lead you to two out of the three which will decide in their favour. At first, as we before observed, this anxiety in unfair dealers to meet with those who ought to readily perceive unsoundness, puzzled us; but, when determined to accomplish anything, all difficulties soon vanish; this we found by accidentally stumbling on a solution to the mystery. We were in a yard, in the city, where a great deal of this, to us, inexplicable business was carried on, when a veterinary surgeon, who had suddenly jumped into a considerable practice, and seemed to be getting money very much faster than legitimate means usually warrant, entered the yard; one of these dealers immediately met him, when he requested the veterinarian to look at a horse of his, so that he might know him when taken for his opinion, as the dealer observed it looks more genuine and liberal with some people not to accompany them. There was then a conversation as to price, when the dealer observed, "A five-pound note is all I can stand out of that." "Well," said the other, "I suppose I must make him all right."

Though we hardly think this needs explanation, yet, as the system was only new to us at that moment, so sure a way of doing business never having struck us before, we think it possible there may be some of our readers whose imaginations can hardly imagine such roguery, therefore we cannot be too explicit. The plain English then of this colloquy was, for five pounds from the dealer, the veterinarian was to tell the buyer, who would also give him half-a-guinea, that the horse was sound. We confess we were astonished, and from that moment have always looked with great suspicion on all opinions; and how often have we pondered upon the innumerable ways resorted to, to make that noblest of four-footed animals, the horse, the innocent means of the basest robberies. The reason for their preferring you should have a veterinary opinion on a lame horse, to giving a warranty, was now evident:—with the latter they might have a great deal of trouble; in fact, could not avoid, it without moving their horses,—to evade consequences, and this is not always convenient. With the former, all trouble was over the moment they got the money, a veterinary opinion being final; and if the horse is known to be lame within a minute after, it is too late, no returning being allowed. Having allowed you to

have this opinion, prior to purchase, is also an excuse, which appears an honest one, for refusing to refund, and does not allow of the opprobrium being cast upon the yards, to which the constant wrangling attending breach of warranties is sure to create, where the parties do not intend to act with common fairness. A secret once partly penetrated is easy of solution, and we now found there was more than one or two to whom these dealers were not ashamed to hold out bribes, as a reward to dishonestly pass their horses; and this accounted for their proposing three opinions instead of one, as it is easy, accidentally, to lead the victim the road in which these specimens of honesty are thickest planted; apparent accident would then send them to the majority in the dealer's favour, when his sale is secured.

Some veterinarians again contend there is no such thing as a sound horse. This is rather a singular conclusion for any man, possessing common understanding, to arrive at; and we should have passed by it as too absurd for notice, had we not heard more than one person, who had the reputation of being clever, maintain this doctrine. However, as this is the case, we feel called upon for a few words, as this doctrine is arraigning nature, by affirming she sends only diseased horses into the world; and this we should imagine very few would assent to. Besides, were unsoundness so universal, these gentlemen would never pass a horse, under the present management, without robbing their employer. Why such an opinion was ever entertained, or how it could maintain its ground, we are at a loss to conjecture; unless by soundness these alarmists mean perfection, and then we must allow they rarely meet with this. Allowing this to be the case, still they are in error; soundness and perfection, though they must be united to form the latter, yet they are not inseparable; and a very useful sound horse may frequently be found, yet as far from perfection as we should ever wish to see a horse. These men, therefore, are innocently the cause of much injustice to both the buyer and the seller of horses; the one is perpetually searching for what his professional man considers visionary; the other is continually having his horses tried and returned by the customers of these fastidious professionals as unsound, obtaining for them the name of having nothing but screws. There is another set of veterinarians who allow there are such things as sound horses, but they are rarely to be met with, even amongst those horses which have never done a day's work; but showing them one, that is not immediately from the breeder, with all the bloom upon him, is useless waste of time, very few even of these being able to satisfy their fastidious

ideas ; in fact, there are very few colts, which have never been handled; that would pass their—we were going by mistake to say—judgment, but rather mean the want of it.

That there are colts which have not been handled, that are not sound, we willingly allow ; but they are very very far from being so numerous as these alarmists would lead us to believe. The fact is, they have one standard, and cannot make allowance for the deviations which nature makes from perfection, but immediately consider they are unnatural, and must be produced by some injury, and that when they are thus formed from necessity, they must constitute that alarming word “ unsoundness.” To make ourselves understood, we must say that we contend that very considerable deviations from nature may take place, whether from artificial means or nature’s sport, without constituting unsoundness, which we have always understood to be shortly comprised in this description. Any horse capable of doing the same work, as other horses of his class, without requiring any peculiar care or treatment, is a sound horse. As we shall have to devote a considerable space to give a fuller and more explicit account of soundness hereafter, we hope this will serve the purpose we intend it at present—that of making the buyer and seller of horses better acquainted, and prevent the seller being so unjustly blamed as he frequently is.

Neither is the examiner’s task, when a conscientious man, at all an enviable one under the present order of things, he being aware that prejudice runs so strong against the seller, and that unless he always leans more than justice demands towards the buyer, there are sure to be plenty to agree, he assisted the seller from sinister motives. He is also aware “ to err is human,” and that, occasionally, with the utmost skill and caution united, he may be mistaken; and admitting that he in his judgment never deviated, yet the improper treatment to which the buyer too often subjects his horse would get him sufficiently blamed ; for wrong he is sure to be in the buyer’s imagination if the horse does not keep sound. In former numbers will be found valuable information to buyers how to use their horses after purchase, so as to have them keep sound after they come into their possession : attending the advice there given, will save them enormous expense and vexation, as well as prevent their unjustly blaming innocent parties. It is important for the *buyer to remember*, the veterinary surgeon *does not say the horse will continue sound under any treatment*. Of this every man of sense, who is acquainted with the horse or any other living animal, must be quite aware : *he only says it is sound at the time of his exami-*

nation, and to do this properly requires not a little skill and knowledge of the animal.

Upon reference to that part of our work just recommended, it must be seen how easily the horse may be injured by a little improper management even in taking him home after examination; and that even from a little play, he may kick or otherwise injure himself by the most judicious care; or admitting he escapes all these injuries, serious cold or illness may ensue from changing stables, or from too sudden change of food. It is, therefore, important for justice to all parties that the stable he comes out of should be examined, that his new one may be assimilated as nearly as possible to it in temperature; and that all the other directions to which you are referred be strictly attended to, particularly if you purchase in November. Having proceeded thus far, we will say a few words about some of those horses which are fastidiously rejected by almost all examiners; we have used the term "fastidious," though that of unjustly would be a much more proper term, as they take upon themselves to prescribe a certain form and size for particular parts of the horse, and unless the animal happens to have those parts exactly formed to their opinion, they choose to term it a deviation from nature; thus the hocks of colts are often said to be enlarged if they happen to be, even in the smallest degree, beyond what they prescribe as nature's standard; if on the seat of spavin, he is condemned at once as having this defect, and, therefore, he is pronounced unsound; or if they should not go so far as to pronounce this curse upon him, he is condemned for the enlargement; if on the seat of curb, the results are the same. From having had a very considerable number of colts to break, and that too where we have had to throw them considerably on their haunches, at ages when they certainly ought not to have been thus used, we must say we have frequently found hocks formed as just described, and which we have trembled for thinking, from this prejudice having been instilled into us, that they never could stand it; not only have they done so without the dreaded consequence, but that those hocks which we had deemed perfect, till experience taught us otherwise, had frequently to enlarge like the others before they could stand the necessary work; but that unless great care was taken that real, not fancied, spavins or curbs, as the case might be, actually did take place, unless rest or lighter work (throwing them less upon their haunches), was immediately resorted to. This we do not contend has always been the case, but in very numerous instances. Having always used the utmost candour, and never having stated any thing not only

without giving a reason but an example, also let us ask any competent person whether he ever saw *any horse that had been much hunted without enlarged hocks, and if he has, what proportion they bore to those which the fastidious, not acquainted with horses used to this work, would deem perfect?* Nay, more, what proportion do those horses, *who have perfect hocks, that have done any work, bear to the enlarged ones?* When they have examined and considered this subject well, perhaps they will be prepared to agree with us, *that unless these enlargements are the cause of lameness, the horse ought to be deemed sound.* They are, in our opinion, placed there by nature, to enable the part to effect that work which the horse is called upon to perform, and without which it would be impossible for him to do that for which he is required. This is proved by these enlargements disappearing by absorption, when the animal has been for a considerable time employed at other work, which, in a great measure, relieves the (we will use the common term) injured part from duty. In other words, relieves the hocks from excessive action. Horses which have been spavined, so as to produce considerable lameness, have become quite sound, and lost the enlargement while drawing the plough.

How many hunters have we seen sold at prices varying between one and three hundred guineas, which, had they been obliged to undergo the fastidious professional criticism, would have been condemned as useless. But their deeds being known, and their soundness established, they have been bought for their merits without caring for *their bumps*, though in a hunter diseased hocks are of more consequence than in any other horse.

What horse, lame behind, can stand this work? yet, with hunters, are these enlargements greater, and more common than in any other. Though nearly all horses, as before stated, who have done any work, have their hocks altered from what they were on being first handled, let their work have been what it may. Examine the horses in Hyde-Park any day, this being the place to meet with the most horses that do the least work, from the largeness of their master's studs, and the horses which they use here, getting perhaps less work than any of their others, having little else to do than lounge here for one or two hours of the day during the fashionable season; and, after this examination, we think you will be convinced they are not such dreadful defects as you have hitherto been led to believe; and had we not a better opinion of many of the profession than to fancy they could make use of such dishonesty, we should imagine they used them as bugbears to frighten purchasers out of a

few more half-guineas; and though this is the case with some, yet others, we sincerely believe, are unjust from too great a desire not to commit an error against their employer, and from too great a prejudice against the dealer, whom they seem always to meet rather as an antagonist, than considering themselves in their true situation, that of an impartial judge; he should have no prejudices, the horse is before him, and whether he belongs to a dealer or a gentleman is not his business; and if the horse goes sound, he has a right to pronounce him such, making reservations where he thinks it absolutely necessary.

At present we have merely mentioned hocks, and to them only we are applying our remarks. If the examiner, therefore, it imagines the horse now merely goes sound on account of rest, or particular treatment, he may add, "But though the horse now goes sound, as I cannot tell the work he has lately been performing, I should advise, as it is to be presumed the purchaser likes the horse, by taking the trouble of having him examined, your making a bargain with the seller to have the horse for a week's trial;—during this time be careful only to use him fairly as your own, otherwise you will be obliged to keep him; and should he stand your ordinary work, or such work as the general run of his class of horse is capable of performing during that time, you must keep him; should he not do this without giving at the suspected part, then you can return him." The examiner should further recommend that the price of the horse should be paid into an indifferent party's hands, not to be delivered without an order from him; and then, should the horse be unsound, the dealer ought to be paid the sum agreed for his use out of the money thus pounds. The purchaser should take care to make a bargain, prior to using the horse, what remuneration he is to give the dealer, should the horse be returned. With this the examiner ought not to interfere, neither should he as to whether the horse is, or is not, likely to suit the purchaser, unless there is some defect to render him unsound. It is the purchaser's business to ascertain himself by trial and experience, whether he is likely to suit in other respects, for the examiner can only imagine from what purchasers please to tell what their work is, and they generally represent it as being very different from what it is, often not knowing themselves what is easy and what is severe work for a horse; otherwise, it would be difficult to account for almost every one saying their horses had little or nothing to do; and those who work theirs the hardest, are generally the last to be persuaded to the contrary; this we feel convinced can only arise from misconception of the subject, as it cannot be supposed

they would wilfully misrepresent where no one has a right to interfere. In trying the horse, however, the case is altered; for the tryer, by giving the horse more work than horses of his class ought to be made to perform, can be fixed with the horse, and most assuredly will be, can the seller prove which he mostly contrives to do, that the horse has been over-worked, particularly where some ill consequences arise from the improper exertion which takes from the value of the horse. It is for these reasons we recommend the price of the horse being lodged in an indifferent party's hands, for the examiner to decide whether the money or the horse is to be given to the dealer. For the money once having been paid into the hands of any but the most respectable of the latter, is recovered with much difficulty, they being sure to dispute, inch by inch, every thing which will tend to fix you with the horse; and we have known such things happen to the purchaser as his losing both horse and money, while contesting for the latter; again we have to refer to former numbers for a better explanation. Having pointed out some of the enlargements which we know were produced by work, and given our reasons why horses should not always be condemned as unsound, merely because they were there without inconvenience, which is more particularly proved by the hunter; we will now proceed with a few more, taking them generally, whether produced by work, or only the approaches to it, as in the breaking, and by other circumstances. In colts, even a few days after being foaled, *large* hocks as we term them, but *enlarged* as that class of veterinarians, of whom we still continue to speak, designate them, are seen to exist; and they contend these are small spavins, and persuade themselves they are an hereditary disease: now we have seen them exist where neither the sire nor dam for two or three generations back have had any thing but the cleanest and flattest hocks. Another of their arguments, and that upon which they rest their faith the strongest, is, colts are sometimes lame and spavined behind at the time of foaling. This we allow is sometimes, though rarely the case; and either we must have been very fortunate in such colts as have come under our notice, or the evil must be greatly magnified. Now in all the colts thus injured at the hock with which we have fallen in with a few days after birth, we have found the spavin was only forming, the swelling being inflamed and the bone not yet enlarged, and they have generally yielded to simple remedies where they were applied without irritating the colt, and making him struggle. This proves to us, that instead of this being

an hereditary disease, it is an injury the hocks receive at the time of being foaled, a time when there is frequently so much violence used that we are not surprised at colts occasionally being strained, which they evidently frequently are, though the hocks are not always the sufferers ; and which in a few months some of them get over, while others take two or three years. Others again never properly recover. However, the wonder is not that some of them should be injured at this time, but how it is that there are so few permanently lame. Where the bony excrescence has been formed, and the colt left without work to a proper age, we have generally observed they are again absorbed, leaving very little, if any sign of there ever having been any defect. Sometimes the hocks will begin to enlarge at the first handling of the colt, without any violence being used. The forced exercise, we presume, trying these joints more than they are accustomed to when left to amuse themselves ; the cause, however, not signifying so much as the effect, the latter we must notice ; and never have we in one instance found any inconvenience attending this, as we have ever considered it a hint to act with caution : therefore on the first appearance of any thing of the kind, we have used the colt less ; placed it in a flatter stall, or the hocks on higher ground as the case required, taking care at the same time to keep these joints cool and wet, and not to suffer any one to back them till all unfavourable appearances were gone. By this precaution we have found these hocks stand all the work required ; such as leaping, reining back, going on their haunches, and that work which is supposed most to try them. Why then are they unsound ? for they no longer require any more care than other horses, the joints having accommodated themselves, or become strengthened equal to their work. As well might a labourer be pronounced unsound because the skin of his hands had become from labour altered from its original structure, and thick enough to enable him to do his work ; for we all know he was not born with thick horny palms, and we are also fully aware he could not perform that which is requisite to gain him his daily bread, without nature having kindly assisted in the alteration of their bones, muscles, and their skin, to adapt them to the situation in which they are placed. Who has not observed that such parts as are least used become smaller, while those most required enlarge in the same proportion. Coachmen, and those who use their legs little, are always small or wasted in the latter, while their bodies are large and fat. Sailors are broad and muscular about the upper part of their bodies compared to the lower, from the more general use

of the former. Professional dancers have large legs, their arms and bodies are usually small in proportion. Yet neither of these could fairly be pronounced unsound. At a glance we could tell to which profession each one was best adapted; but to say that one would not perform the work of the other without a trial would be unjust; for though it might at first be harder labour, yet in a short time the necessary altered structure would take place, and the dancer become smaller in the legs and larger in the body, as the coachman would increase in the latter and decrease in the former. Splints, we are also of opinion, are only to be considered an unsoundness where they are so situated that they must interfere with the action of the horse when he is in working condition; for this makes a great deal of difference as to the horse's striking his legs. If, therefore, the horse shows from his action, he is likely to strike them, or, technically speaking, goes to cut, then we think they may be considered an unsoundness; but otherwise, and they are not situated so as to interfere with the tendon, a rare case. Then we must say that we do consider it very unjust to pronounce them an unsoundness. Let such fastidious people ask themselves, providing the splint has not either of the above inconveniences, what injury it is to the horse? and if no injury, why is it an unsoundness? Let them consider what a splint is, and whether it is not produced by nature to strengthen the part; and that whether produced by a blow or a sprain is of little consequence, as the moment the splint is forced the horse is just as capable of work as ever, and even more so, if produced by work: that weak place being strengthened, no inconvenience resulting from the splice, it can be no injury. And if produced from a blow in leaping, or a kick from the groom, a more frequent cause than either, it is not from defective structure at all events. However, as there is no rule without exceptions, when the examiner sees good cause to doubt, let him pursue the plan recommended in the case of doubtful hocks, which will be far better and honester to all parties than that of pronouncing the horse unsound, or merely observing the horse has splints. He may just as well observe at once the horse is lame, and he knows it; but dishonestly makes it a subterfuge to get another half-guinea, knowing his merely making the observation is sufficient for ninety persons out of the hundred to refuse the horse, about this or even a larger proportion of buyers, running after that *ignis fatuus*, a perfect horse: and as splints imply a defect, they reject for that and other trifles, till at last they get a horse much more useless than the others probably would have been, had their imaginary ailments been

real ones. Contracted feet, again, is often only an imaginary evil ; at all events, we would rather have them than a large flat foot, which will be pronounced sound ; and so would all judges of horses, they being well aware that the contracted foot, unless the cause of lameness or considerable inflammation, only requires care to keep them wet ; and the less rest the better, particularly in wet weather ; and you should make them lift their feet tolerably high, which they all seem averse to doing.

Flat thin feet (good open feet, as they are generally termed) cannot stand work ; the drier they are kept, the less the horse is used, in wet weather above all, the better : neither can you get him to skim the earth's surface too closely ; this, however, is more difficult to accomplish than getting the other to step high ; the reason for which we are about to explain. The latter horse, however, generally is passed as sound, while the other, being considered a deviation from nature, is pronounced unsound : yet the former, by a little attention, will wear out several of the latter, if they get all the care and nursing of a petted child. The following was written for that portion of the work which will be upon breeding ; but we introduce it here to prove what we have been observing upon feet, and show that the treatment recommended in former numbers must be that which is best adapted to each hoof, to enable them to do their work longest, with pleasure to their master and without pain to themselves.

“ The feet of horses being one of the most important parts of that valuable animal, and on which their excellence mainly depends, the effect which soil has upon them must be interesting not only to the breeder but the sportsman, as this knowledge will enable us to effect two desirable objects, that of producing hoofs of the most lasting texture, and enable us to treat each kind of hoof in the way best calculated to keep it in the most perfect state. Every person purchasing a horse, being aware of the foot's importance, lifts it up to examine, or rather with too many we should say to look at it, as they are not aware whether the foot is good, bad, or indifferent, sound or diseased, unless we except a thrush, and for this trifle often reject a good horse and take a worse with very faulty feet, and in a greater state of disease. But any person who has paid great attention to breeding, on looking at a horse, or even the hoof, which is only a small portion of that animal, will at once tell the country, or at any rate the soil, he was bred or reared on ; while it will require nearly the whole of the other parts of the horse to ascertain the same thing.

“ But before we proceed farther, (as for the breeder this paper is

more immediately intended,) we should observe there are two sorts of feet which are faulty. The one is too hard, and subject to contraction ; the other is too soft, and of course liable to a very opposite disease, expansion, and letting the sole of the foot on the ground ; this is the worst disease of the two. The horse generally possessing the first sort of foot is light about the head and neck, with high thin withers, the shoulder slanting well backwards from the neck towards the back, or obliquely, and goes near the ground. The horse with the other foot is of an opposite make, having heavy fore quarters, upright shoulders, and high action. The first are bred on high, dry, and hilly soils : and the horses of part of Germany, Poland, Persia, Turkey, and all hot countries, where the soil is dry, possess these hard hoofs. In Persia and Poland some of the horses are never shod. We had a nutmeg-grey Polish mare (a very good hackney), fourteen hands three inches high ; she was five years old when we first had her brought to this country, and had never been shod, though she had at all events been rode sufficiently to make her exceedingly handy, and we have frequently rode her about London and its neighbourhood for ten days or a fortnight without shoes (between the times of her being shod), before she has shown any signs of feeling (or going differently from when her shoes were on) ; and we have no doubt from the strength of her hoofs, unless this had been done, her feet would have become very contracted.

“ The soft hoofs are the produce of low wet soils, as Flanders, part of Germany, &c. ; or, to come nearer home, upon seeing the horse first described, we should say he was Yorkshire ; or, as he differed, belonging to some other county or soil ; the other, Lincolnshire or Leicestershire, or according to the difference as in the first case. Why the horses of high dry countries should possess strong hoofs is evident, as the soft hoofs could not stand the wear and tear of the hard dry soil they inhabit, with the distance it is necessary for them to travel for food, as these soils are naturally most barren and the produce less succulent ; here we have nothing to do with what man has effected in making these lands fertile. Besides, being in high situations, which are naturally colder, they require more exercise (or play) to keep themselves warm and in health, and the ascending and descending heights lays back the shoulder-blades ; consequently the withers are thinner from being raised higher above them ; and they go near the ground, having no impediments to low progression, and from the great wear which they would receive from concussion were they to lift their legs unnecessarily high.

"Those on low marshy grounds, on the contrary, are more generally more sheltered, and, from the richness of the soil and more succulent food, have not so far to travel nor the same urgent necessity for exercise. They therefore generally grow to a greater size upon the soil only (i. e. without artificial means), from the same cause (the easiness with which they get their food) stand feeding with their legs under them, scarcely taking necessary exercise, but eating, like the sloth, as far round them as it is possible to reach by leaning before their legs before they move. These are the causes of their upright shoulders; and from the miry state of the ground they are obliged to lift their legs high to clear them over the mud. This is the cause of their high action. The wet accounts for their hoofs being soft, and their high action for their flatness. We need not observe more on either hoofs, both to excess being bad."

After the observations made during the consideration of examination as to the soundness, we think it is shown tolerably plain that it is almost impossible to find a horse that has done any work which can pass these fastidious examinations, much more have we shown that only a very few can pass before they have done any work at all, but been broke with the greatest care; have we not, in fact, shown that many are condemned for having hereditary unsoundness almost as soon as they see the light? Is not this question then well worthy the attention of examiners and purchasers; and have we not shown how all parties may be protected far better than they at present are? This once adopted, the dealers would become a respectable class of society, subterfuge would be no longer necessary, he would be able to look his customer in the face, and say the horse has such and such enlargements, naming them by their situations, but the horse is sound, or will do his work sound; but, while soundness is to mean perfection, they must resort to subterfuge who deal in any but the first-rate horses, and those can only be partly broke, otherwise they would show some marks; and were it not that they have more customers who are willing to prefer their veracity to the opinion of an examiner than those who require it, they would not be able to sell one-third of the horses they now do. Is not the profession, therefore, called upon to make some alteration in their opinions,—we will not call it their ideas, but their public opinion of soundness? Their private one is different, and is proved by their own horses; they are not so fastidious for themselves, being aware that they should seldom get a horse to suit their work, even

though he fulfilled to the letter what they require for their customers ; they are also quite aware that if they did get a horse thus free from all enlargements, that a few days' work would bring them on, and that the horse would at once be reduced to at least one-half of his original cost, though in reality he was not one penny the worse for work ; on the contrary, that let him be put to work when he would, these enlargements would take place, probably laying the horse up for a considerable time with inflammation and swelling of the parts, while they were adapting themselves to greater exertion than they had hitherto been accustomed.

Are not the examiners therefore called upon to do something ? And why have they not done it before ? We know there are many of them who would most willingly, but there is a want of unity amongst them, and a desire to injure one another's practice, otherwise they would long ere this ; from their own accord, their own wish to keep themselves respectable and do justice to both parties, have come to some better understanding as to what should, and what should not be considered defects sufficient to return the horse ; they are now called upon to do so, if they do not intend to speedily destroy that part of their profession, for both sellers and buyers are getting tired of the useless trouble they give, and the great expense which they are unnecessarily put to. They might, we think, divide soundness into two divisions, that is, say this horse is a sound fresh country horse, free from all signs of labour. The other is a sound horse, but has been used. Where they suspect the latter has been made up, they can recommend the buyer to try the horse as before mentioned, as a second-hand horse can receive no injury from a fair trial. With the young country horse it is different. This, however, is between buyer and seller : the examiner has no right to consider the point in question, but propose a trial in any case where he thinks it required. It is for the dealer and his customer to see if they can arrange to make it worth their while. There is yet a third class of horses to which we must devote a few words, and these are called by the trade used horses. These are often a very serviceable description of horse ; and those who cannot afford to pay for fashion, action, and many other virtues which add greatly to the price of the horse, must put up with them. Amongst these, soundness, in the strict sense of the word, is out of the question ; however, as the veterinarian is occasionally called upon to examine these, we think where they have only used action. This we hardly know how to describe, though to horsemen it is well known. They move along as if they did not feel certain how knocked up they might be before night, and therefore seem to be trying to give themselves as

little labour as possible: when therefore they only go thus, and not lame, the examiner would be justified in saying, he is as sound as used or worn horses, if the term be preferred, generally are, and he has no doubt but he may last some time. Of course this is only meant where he really thinks so. If he has any doubt with this class of horse, there can be less objection for granting a trial than with any other. Again we repeat, unless some such alteration as suggested soon takes place, veterinarians will be troubled very little as examiners; dealers have already begun to see the injury they sustain from fastidious faults being found, and there is one examiner so famed for it, that within the last few months some of the respectable dealers will not allow their horses to be examined by him. This was a proper step, their character demanded it, and we are only surprised that they should so long have suffered any man, whether from his ignorance or cupidity, to stain them with a stigma they do not deserve, and send back their horses as unsound when they were perfectly so. But much more are we astonished at their allowing any man, after he has passed a horse as sound, making irrelevant remarks, which prevent the sale of the horse; such as, The horse would have looked better with a smaller head: or he would have been less likely to fall were it not so heavy: or if the tail had been higher set on, he would have been handsomer;—yet such remarks have frequently been made, and nearly as often has it prevented the horse's sale. Can there be a question but this was what the conscientious examiner intended, that he might pocket another fee? A new plan, or at least new to us, has lately been resorted to amongst examiners; or at least at one place, with two horses, it was lately practised; it is the following: a valuable horse, in fine blooming condition, was submitted by the trier to a professional examiner, who said he was sound with the exception of his wind, and of this he could not be certain. This was such a curious qualification to his examination, that the seller requested the gentleman would take him again; he did so, and received the same answer, but bought him on his being warranted. A few days subsequent; another horse was submitted to the same examiner, by another gentleman: the same bar to his wind was given as with the former horse: the tryer would have nothing to do with him. Again was he taken to the same party by another gentleman, with the same result, another purchased on a warranty without examination. These horses were as good winded horses as ever were seen, which they afterwards proved by their deeds. Here we do not suspect cupidity in the examiner, so much as nervousness and too great a desire

not to err against his employer. Still it is unfair, and equally unpardonable, thus to enter into the determination that all dealers' horses must be made up of hidden unsoundnesses ; this is the opinion of the examiner we expressed at the time when the horses were shown to us by their owner, he having consulted us as to their soundness, and our reason for the examiner having made such a declaration. Is it that this gentleman has become a convert to those who imagine, unless a horse can gallop a mile through deep heavy ground without breathing, as if it had not been a yard ; if so, he will find this precaution absolutely necessary, as there are very few horses which will bear such a test, neither is it necessary that they should, few horses being required for such work ; and were they, the question is, whether, if they do not wheeze without considerable exertion, it is of any consequence ; and, if not, why it should be made such a drawback to the sale of all horses. Eclipse, it is well known, was always a thick-winded horse, yet no horse could beat him, or show less sign of distress after violent exertion. If asked whether he was sound or unsound, what would be the answer ? did he not "do as much work as any horse of his class was capable of performing ?" and this is the short definition of soundness. We are told that he did more than any other horse of his or any other class ; the inference therefore is, that a horse may wheeze on violent exertion, and yet be sound. How often do we find horses that are bad winded, or at least unsound from whistling at starting, yet, after the first quarter of a mile, do not make any noise, and then gallop as well as the best of them ; this being the case, why do they call those unsound which require distress from exertion to make them whistle ?

A grey colt of ours was once cast in his halter : we were not acquainted with the accident till some time after, when it was too late to render any assistance, a very large spavin being formed, and the horse become stiff in that joint ; he was at this time three years old, of a very singular make, high before, and very low behind, like a cameleopard. He was not broke, as keeping him longer was considered useless ; he was rode when required, and though not very often leaped, as that seemed to give him pain, yet he was one of the highest leapers we ever saw, although his make, as described, did not seem to be calculated for a jumper ; his peculiar formation was also against his hocks, the greater portion of his weight always being thrown upon them ; yet, spite of all the disadvantages he laboured under, at five years old when we parted with him, there was little or no stiffness in the joint, and the enlargement was nearly absorbed. We have now completely lost sight of

him, for which we are sorry, as we watched his hock with much anxiety.

He was a very pleasant horse to ride, with the feeling of always ascending hills, and high in his action ; the large price, spite of his unsoundness, offered on account of his wonderful leaping, and his pleasant action, was the inducement to part with him, before we had seen the effects of more age upon the injured joint. Splints, it is also well known, absorb after the union of the bones has taken place, so that you never see them on the legs of old horses ; nor do they form so large, if you rest the horse the moment the injury which produces them has been inflicted.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

“T. B.” If he took the horse to any other place than that he represented to the person from whom he hired it, he is answerable for the accident. Had he only taken it where professed, and at a reasonable pace, no action would lie.

“R. U.” had better show the horse to a veterinary surgeon, as description would not clearly show the disease.

“D. G.” Corns are an unsoundness.

“O. S.” It does not do to feed horses by military rule that have more than regimental work to perform.

“D. E.” Where the horse falls lame on his way home, the purchaser cannot recover from the veterinary surgeon who examined him.

“H. I.” The register is kept by the publisher of this work, and has been ever since its announcement.

“F. P.” We shall feel pleasure in giving any information in our power. He need not fear we shall think his questions too trivial ; were he to see the communications of many of our correspondents, he would find several of the questions were uninteresting to horsemen, though of the greatest importance to our querists.

“W. S.” Why dispute upon an error in description, if the horse suits your purpose ?

VETERINARY OPINIONS.—(*Continued.*)

To properly understand about the wheezing when horses are rode hard through deep and heavy ground, or up hill, which are the two ways in which those who contend there are no sound horses try them ; we have only to recommend them to run nearly as fast as they are able for a considerable distance : they will first feel themselves tired and distressed for breath, then begin to wheeze, which will increase in sound till it almost approaches a noise similar to that disease in horses termed roaring ; do not let the distress deter you from persevering further, when you will get, what amongst horsemen is termed, second wind ; and your respiration will be no longer painful and laboured, but you will breathe with nearly the same ease as at starting. As you are more or less in running condition, so will this description vary, but if you ask a well known and practised runner, he will tell you that is what he experiences. From what we have remarked in former numbers upon the condition of horses, it will be plainly understood from this, that no horse just from the dealers, more especially if in fine blooming condition, can stand such a trial ; and that a very little exertion must make him puff, blow, and wheeze ; yet a discriminating examiner can easily tell whether it is only the effects of dealing condition, loose fat, and want of exercise, to reduce this to muscle (to remedy this, attend to prior directions) ; or whether it is the remains of a disease, (should this be the case, then it is unquestionably an unsoundness, if interfering with the horse's wind) ; and frequently whether it is not only the effects of a recent cold, (when this is the case, to cure the one is a remedy for the other). In fact, there is no horse, in selling condition, that would not be ruined for ever after such a trial, if not killed by it ; and but few, without a very different training from their ordinary work, that could possibly stand such barbarous usage, without not only wheezing, but receiving considerable injury. Let the examiner, therefore, always take into consideration the time and exertion required to make him wheeze ; then set against this his constant work and exercise from these, and by having well examined the working of the flank prior to exertion, they need not be afraid to pronounce on any horse. This will not require five minutes of his time ; and if that be too precious to devote only the few moments here allotted for the examination, why not honestly say it is not worth his while to give

No. 15.

opinions without a larger fee: he has a right to ask what he pleases; it rests with purchasers of horses to do as they please about giving more than the fee usually required: should he ask no more than the public estimate his talents at, his business will not be injured; on the contrary, should he estimate them at more than they are worth, he has only himself to blame if his business is taken to others of more humble views.

WINDGALLS.

Here is another kind assistant to fees upon fees, they being one of those outward alterations which the legs first receive upon being used, and the cause of their formation not being understood by the public generally, but being easy of detection, and known not to exist on colts before handling, are considered by too many as the most serious evils. This has no doubt been exaggerated by grooms and other clever fellows, knowing, as they consider themselves, in horseflesh; but in reality void of real horse knowledge; making a great parade at pointing them out to those less informed in the mysteries of horse-flesh. Who amongst horsemen has not noticed the peculiar knowing look and self-approving smile, altogether seeming to say, as they look in the face of those for whom they are examining, Did you think it possible for any one to detect defects so readily? In our opinion they are merely barometers, showing the work the horse is in the general habit of performing. They may be, like all other signs of work, to a degree of themselves to be an objectionable inconvenience to the horse; but where this is the case it is rare; they are not accompanied by other defects occasioned by excessive work, which of themselves were each so many unsoundnesses, and for which the horse only possessed of one of them, independent of the windgalls, would be rejected. They rise and fall, increase and decrease, as the horse works more or less; total rest dispersing them altogether; even in the worst cases, this and slight assistance will soon reduce them, as the dealers well know, and very generally practise.

Whether it is from the examiners being aware of this, or that their love of fees makes them equally anxious with the most illiterate to keep up this ancient prejudice, we will not take upon ourselves to determine; but this we will venture to assert, that they have only themselves to blame for dealers resorting to every trick to hide them. It is the enlightened veterinary surgeon's business to be above, and do away with, every vulgar prejudice, and when they have taught the world the just value, or rather only the real injury arising from

windgalls, then will they get horses more fit for their work, and be less taken in than they are at present: neither will accidents occur so frequently, from dealers being compelled to sell horses not half broken, that they may be sufficiently free from bugbears to pass these examinations. To make this clearer, we should observe that windgalls are very easily produced at all ages; but the younger they are, the more rapidly are they formed. A slight journey more than the horse is accustomed to will produce them; rest, or return to his ordinary occupation, and they disappear. Take a horse, not accustomed to much work, fifty miles in one day, stiffness and heat about the joints will by attention be first observed; a day or two after windgalls are visible. Over-weight a horse, the same result will follow. Take him even a short distance, at an extreme pace, similar effects are produced. A playful horse will frequently bring on windgalls while only being lunged; they are rested when the gall disappears; at all other stages of his breaking is he also equally liable to them, and the same remedy is successful. This therefore shows they are not to be considered always as a proof of having done work; neither is their total absence, as we have shown, to be regarded as a proof of their never having been slaved, and that, too, full as hard as some of those on whom they are glaringly visible.

A distance, we have named, but much less fatigue will have the same effect upon some horses; but as considerably more depends upon the way he is made to perform the journey, and the attention he receives in the stable after, it is impossible to define correctly what exertion it will require to produce them; but rely on it; where inflammation from exertion is allowed to exist in the feet and joints four and twenty hours, windgalls larger or smaller are sure to show themselves. Immediately after such a journey, to bandage with wet flannel or haybands is a humane practice, but, what is more likely to be effective, it is a profitable one also, saving your valuable companion much pain, as well as preventing the inflammation; therefore its after consequences, windgalls: thus keeping up the value of the animal. Where from want of this attention, or from over-exertion, such as being compelled to go faster than such a distance warrants, or the horse from his high action not being calculated for travelling, should afterwards have them, they will disperse by this treatment, and returning to such work as he had been accustomed to prior to their forming, if this can be called work; for there hardly ever was a horse yet that did work at any pace which came under our observation without them in some degree.

Let not the bandages be bound tightly round the legs, or they produce more inconvenience than they are intended to remedy, particularly if haybands are resorted to, and be careful that they are sufficiently untwined to make them soft. Whatever the bandages let them be placed so lightly round the legs, as merely to keep them in their places without pressure : this will enable them to hold more water—a great desideratum, as well as allow the horse to move with more comfort in the stall, and allow of an equal freedom to circulation as when none are there ; neither will they prevent the horse from lying down, which tight bandages too frequently do, occasioning another torture to limbs already exhausted.

To return, however, to the examiners : having shown these windgalls will exist while the horse is at work, we must also observe, they will increase if this work is excessive, and decrease if the work is lighter, or disperse altogether by rest and artificial remedies. Did any person ever see windgalls on any horse's legs on his first returning from grass? neither do they appear again until the horse's legs have swelled, either from labour or from the bowels being too constipated, or from want of exercise ; they following swelled legs, from whatever cause these arise, unless the unnatural enlargement is got rid of instantly. They are therefore produced by neglect or mismanagement, as well as work. Where they are not very large, they are probably the only signs of work, or neglect about the horse : disperse these, and he is passed that moment. The buyer puts him to the work which produced them originally, they return ; but not attended by the stiffness and inflammation which at first produced them. The examiner here is outwitted by the dealer, he having shown the horse from a state of rest. Where the windgalls have been so bad as to be a serious defect, had they not been dispersed, we have before observed, there are other sufficient barriers to their passing, they are therefore not rejected for these ; before it was observed, horses being rejected for windgalls prevented their being sufficiently broken, to be safe. This is also one of the reasons why dealers' horses do not get sufficient exercise, as in the fat state, in which horses are necessarily kept for sale, they are easily produced. Where they are already in existence, and the horse is obligated to be shown, before they are so dispersed as to require work to reproduce them, they have them walked about for an hour or two early in the morning before any persons likely to become purchasers are about, as this will disperse them for some hours ; when they begin to show themselves, he is again taken out to exercise ; it is therefore seldom they see these defects on dealers' horses ; they may therefore possibly presume upon

this, that when they are brought to them with these, it is because they cannot be dispersed. Our opinion is different, we never saw them yet so obstinate as not to yield, for a few hours, if not till the horse was again worked as before, to one or other of the remedies resorted to ; we therefore are of opinion they should rather, when they see horses brought to them with other genuine appearances, consider this as favourable, in showing the owner had not the art to bide the most glaring of the defects, and therefore was not adept enough to bide the deeper ones. Instead, therefore, of saying, with the mysterious air, as if many other unseen dangers were behind, He has got windgalls, seeming as if they wished to prevent the sale of the horse ; they were to say, The horse is evidently at constant work, such as most probably renders all his defects more manifest, and if you only require him to do the same, or more, (if they think him capable,) he is equal to it, and he is sound. Or should he have been overworked, yet still not sound, we cannot see any reason why they should say he is sound, and if your work is easier than that to which he is accustomed, he is as likely as ever to continue so and to improve. This the more respectable class of the profession will readily acknowledge is the honest practice, and that which their patrons the public call upon them to perform : indeed, we see no reason why the public should not join the dealers in demanding this candour as a right, these two being the injured, if we may not add also the pillaged parties.

The time we hope is come when an air of mysteriousness, and a few words capable of being transformed into a thousand meanings, will no longer be considered worth a fee, or even put up with by either the purchaser or the seller : they each have a right to a plain and explicit, and not a qualified answer to the question of soundness : nor does the seller do justice to himself unless he makes them. One instance we will give :—Suppose the examiner says the horse is a whistler, and the seller knows it is the consequence of a recent cold, why should he not boldly ask the examiner, whether he considers the horse a confirmed whistler, or that it is only an attendant upon a temporary cold ? This cold of itself is an unsoundness ; but few buyers will be so unreasonable, when they know this to be the case, as not to wait a day or two, for the horse to be bled, and have a mash or two, when he will be as well as ever. Would not most buyers argue, and truly, Will not the horse most probably take as bad a cold on being introduced to my stable ? Will it not therefore be as well for me to take the horse at once, and have

him bled, and begin his physicking as soon as he gets home, when no time will be lost.

The examiner knows this would be the result of candour on his part, and he would only get one fee, by saying the horse is a whistler, and no more. But he knows the observation will be construed into fearful consequences ; the horse will be rejected and another sought, which, when obtained, will produce another fee to himself for again examining. Why dealers should feel themselves so degraded as to look on with apathy, and see, not only their interests ruined, but their characters blasted, by a few men really guilty of more dishonourable practices than any but the most degraded of their body, is astonishing. A small portion of the most respectable of the dealers have shown some disposition to retrieve themselves ; may they continue in the spirit and their numbers increase, is our sincere wish, as then and not till then will horses be properly valued, and a large portion of the public no longer be deprived of the services of so useful an animal from the fear of the many dangers they have to encounter in purchasing : neither will sellers have to resort to the most degrading artifices, nor be held in the disgraceful contempt which has hitherto been attached to this captivating pursuit, in which they are joined by every rank of society. And no persons will rejoice more at our having taken up the subject than a numerous class of respectable veterinary surgeons, who, from truly conscientious motives under existing practices, consider giving opinions the most unpleasant part of their practice ; knowing that when they act from honourable motives, how many there are of their own profession to chime in with the general cry against the dealer and themselves, when any thing goes wrong, even though the horse remains sound for even months afterwards. A childish opinion being generally entertained that both veterinarians and dealers have the gift of miraculons powers, and can see into futurity, so as to tell whether the horse is ever liable to become unsound, whatever treatment he may be subjected to, let it be ever so improper, still it is not to affect any horse which has been examined or warranted sound. Every other thing, however simple or complicated, it is allowed may be injured by use. Indeed, the more intricate the machine, the more readily is it allowed it may be injured. With the horse, however, which is much more complicated in his construction, the world in general consider no accident can happen or no injury be received without its having at some period or other belonged to a dealer. Here is the seat of all mischief; the sorcerers of old have, according to their way of reasoning, not vanished from the earth, but

entered the bodies of horse dealers, to blast all the cattle which have the misfortune to pass through their hands. Unless this is the case, why are they blamed for that which happens long after they have lost sight of the horse ? but thus it is, the horse is put to perform work he is not capable of ; he gets strained, immediately the universal cry is raised, the dealer must have known he was weak in that part : should he become lame from want of proper exercise and attention, they are still more violent against the seller, because, as they say, the horse has not done any work, but still is the same to the astonishment of all. Dealers quaintly observe all sellers are rogues, it is only the buyers who are honest men, so well aware are they of the universally unjust complaints against them. Dealers' horses, we have observed, are seldom half broken, from the fear of injuring their sale by windgalls, and enlargements of the joints, which commonly show themselves in the usual way resorted to in breaking ; the breeders, therefore, merely content themselves with having them handled and backed, and when they will turn by dint of pulling, and not seem wonderfully alarmed on being mounted, they are broken enough for the London market : this accounts for many accidents in riding. For harness they are put a little in the plough, but are rarely taught more than to touch the collar, being too valuable to run the risk of work : they are then sold to the London dealer, who puts them for ten minutes a day into his break, to teach them to stand quiet in the streets when required ; more than this he is afraid to use them, for fear of deteriorating their value. They are then sold, as quiet in harness ; sometimes they do not even take them for this, but sell them on their arrival, without ever having seen them in harness at all. Is it wonderful, therefore, when we consider the superficial knowledge possessed by the larger class of horse users, that accidents occasionally occur ? Were it not for the sense of the horses they would be much more frequent and more dreadful ; and who have we to thank for this alteration in the breaking from that which was resorted to a few years back, when the dealer had to make his horse ride well, if intended for the saddle, or perfectly quiet and handy in harness, if destined to draw ? At that time, there was no sale for any that were not broken, and he who made them pleasantest in their work, had the largest sale. It was then their interest to have safe horses ; a windgall or other slight enlargement was not the raw head and bloody bones of the day, they justly dreaded a real danger, (unbroken horses,) but did not magnify shadows into giants. What has altered this state of security to one of real terrors ? *Fastidious* examinations. That these examinations, where

honestly conducted, are desirable, there is little doubting, and no one would they benefit more than the seller ; but where managed as many described in this and preceding numbers, they are a great evil to both buyer and seller.

ARTIFICIAL QUIET.

That it is not the dealer's interest to exercise the horses more than they can possibly help, has been shown ; how is it then that they manage to keep them in sufficient subjection for the trial ? will be the next question of the purchaser ; we, therefore, feel called upon for an explanation : there are several ways resorted to, but first, we should observe, though a fat horse may be full of play for a few minutes, yet as there is a great deficiency of muscle, they soon find their own weight or labour, and relinquish their anticks from exhaustion. Nothing shows this so much as the flighty horse, which is hot and fretful while lean ; but once feed him bullock fat, and he gets comparatively lazy, and continues so until he again loses his fat, when he becomes as fretful as he was prior to his fattening. On the slug this condition has the reverse effect, and his spirits rise in the same ratio that the hot horse's decrease. Yet this is not alone sufficient, as there are no rules without exceptions, and all tempers must be brought to a saleable level ; and though this might be accomplished much better, and *were the future purchaser worthy of consideration*, by the only means to *secure their safety*, that of properly breaking the horse by skilful and kind management ; this, however, we have shown is not the interest of the two opposed factions, the examiner and the dealer ; the former of these two having stepped in the way of the purchaser so much, as to make him a complete cipher beyond the present moment ; and so each party thinks his interest is best consulted by making the most of their victim—the purchaser. With these feelings, it is not wonderful, therefore, that such means are used as only produce a temporary quiet, not from the animal having learnt subjection, by being taught that it is a pleasure to obey, but from faintness and sickness, produced by drugging, making it painful to resist ; aloes in small quantities, digitalis, and white hellebore are the drugs most used to effect this quiet of a few hours, for such any one must be aware it is, on considering the means resorted to. Another mode is, to walk the horse for several hours, till he is leg-weary, and depriving him of rest. The drugging also has the ef-

fect of rendering the legs and feet cool, as well as dispersing wind-galls, during short supremacy ; but when the few hours have passed, during which they have effect, the natural habits of the unrestrained horse return, and the purchaser, not understanding the artificial mode of taming perturbed spirits, wonders what can have befallen the quiet horse he purchased, and considers the dealer as a magician for keeping such an unruly animal in sufficient subjection for sale. Neither would it serve the buyer's purpose to drug, admittin ; he knew how, or we should feel it our duty to inform him ; but as it could not serve him, and might give the information to many who would avail themselves of it for fraudulent purposes, we consider our duty is performed when we inform buyers such things are done. Drugging would not suit the buyer's purpose, were he to resort to it, as the work to which he subjected the animal would cause it to affect him differently from the way he intended it, requiring the doses, if they would succeed, to be given far oftener than is necessary when for sale ; and, from the nature of the materials, it must be evident the frequent administration of such materials would of themselves be exceedingly injurious ; as well as by their frequency must operate as medicine ; when the nausea and sickness which they were given to produce would cease, the animal would become thin, weak, and really ill. Independent of which inconveniences would be another evil—that of frequent administration ; as horses soon learn to fight against physicking (BALLING). The first few times they take a ball easy ; but after that, they recollect how clumsily and cruelly they have been used, and fight desperately against their tongues being again almost torn out by the root, and the skin rubbed off the roof of the mouth by the rough and brutal usage of the operator : independent of which rough usage, there is the jamming the tongue between the teeth before he has time, numbed as it is, from being held so tightly, to draw it into his mouth again ; then the thumps given to his lower jaw, and the pinching and knocking at his windpipe, and the painfully pressing his head in. Poor brutes ! if he knew his strength, and the punishment these self-constituted clever fellows were going to heap upon him, he would soon teach them, in a struggle of force opposed to force, which was to have the mastery. Here we cannot do better than give directions for administering balls, they being much the most convenient form in which medicine can be given to the horse, and the most certain. The horn is an inconvenient instrument, and ought only to be used when medicines are required to act sooner than they would in a solid form, or where they cannot with convenience

be reduced to this consistence. The ball ought not to be very hard, or larger than a pullet's egg ; if smaller, so much the better. Having this ready, let the operator take the tongue quietly in one hand, and draw it out at the side of the mouth, retaining it there with as much gentleness as possible ; then introduce the thumb and little finger into the mouth, to induce the horse to open his mouth sufficiently wide for the ball ; and this should be done with as much haste as can be used, to be certain the ball is lodged upon the gullet ; then let the hand be quickly withdrawn. You may now leave the tongue at liberty, the ball is too far for him to get it back again ; nothing being a greater proof of clumsiness on the part of the operator, than the horse effecting this. If the horse has stood long enough without water to be thirsty, it is a great assistant to have a pail of water brought to him the moment the hand is withdrawn, as his drinking immediately drives the ball down his throat without his being annoyed by the taste of it ; besides which, it assists in making the medicine operate sooner. It is also desirable where the physic is wished to be effective early, that the ball should be given immediately that it is made, and that it be as moist as possible. For a common purging ball we use from four to six drachms of aloes, powdered, and well mixed with only just sufficient common soap to form a ball. Sometimes we add a few drops of water. This, however, is seldom necessary. This has always proved sufficient for our horses when they have been properly prepared by mashes ; not the niggard ones commonly given of from one quarter to half a peck of bran : ours is a good honest two gallon bucket full to each horse ; one at night, and one in the morning, for one or two days, as required ; then the ball after fasting some hours ; then what water they will drink ; another fast of two hours, and continue the mashes as long as we wish them to purge. Give them exercise ; and if you find where four drachms only are given, that walking exercise does not produce the desired effect, trot until it is. This has been our mode of physicking for some years, and it has proved that the following good results have attended it :—the horses do not get afraid to take a ball without trouble, and we never had any ill effects attend the horses at the time of physicking, nor any illness follow after, which is too commonly the case where strong doses are administered, particularly where they are improperly so, to a delicate or sick horse. Frequently has a robust constitution been reduced to a sickly one, merely from over-dosing ; and what can be more injurious to a sick, feverish horse, or one with inflamed lungs, than the irritation produced by the improper and brutal way in which balls are given ? The very

way of administering is a poison more deleterious in its effects than the medicine could have proved curative, if in proper hands. It therefore is the business of every owner of a sick horse to see not only that his horse has a clever veterinary surgeon to attend him, but that the medicine is also administered by a competent person: this is mentioned, as stablemen are fond of interfering and preventing the practitioner sending his man for this purpose, as they fancy giving the medicine adds to their consequence; and thus the hopes of the owner and practitioner are foiled, from the irritation produced by administration of the very compound which was intended to allay it. As a guide which dose to resort to, the dull, lazy, phlegmatic horse, which is a coarse feeder, and requires a great deal of hay for his work, as the knowing ones observe of those horses which require much whip, will require the larger dose, while for those of a more accommodating disposition, and particularly the hot and flighty, the smallest will be sufficient.

The horse which does not feed well, and looks unthrifty, most probably wants cordials; should, however, cathartics be thought more advisable, or to give the cordials with greater safety, the smaller dose is sufficient as a preparative. Cordials, however, we have before observed, are not medicines to tamper with; they had therefore always better be administered under the superintendence of a competent person; and in saying this we must express our regret that they are not used much more frequently than they are, as many valuable horses are ruined from the want of them, and many more destroyed by the folly of substituting cathartics instead of them. These are always weakening; it must therefore be evident, for horses already in a weak state they cannot, as a general rule, be proper; and as the opening of the bowels can be effected at all times of the year, without any injurious effects or inconvenience, the horse being able to continue his work the whole time, and a certain good to the animal by diet; we call the attention of our readers to a former part of this work, where the various foods and their effects will enable them to select that which is most readily obtained at the various seasons. Another recommendation to these articles, instead of cathartics, is, whether the horse requires the latter medicine, or a cordial, they can do no harm, but as alteratives will ultimately do good: they require to be continued a short time where given with this intention.

GENTLEMEN'S SADDLES.

In an early part of this work we commenced some observations on saddles, we are now about to fulfil our promise of renewing them. The

saddles, we are now about to fulfil our promise of renewing them. The saddle, we there observed, was generally supposed to be wholly for the rider, and that were this the only purpose for which it was destined, it was very inadequate ; and after all the trials which have been made to give ease and security, the simplest, a cloth, with the exception of a saddle covered with woollen velveteen, or plush, being far the best assistance to sticking on. The back of the horse is composed of vertebræ, being one continuation of short joints from the head to the tail. It is well known that three hundred pounds weight will break the back of a horse : this is from the position in which he carries his load ; for man, whose back is also composed of vertebræ, has been known to support nearly a ton weight ; but the one taking the load in the posture of a column or pillar would only have the surface of the joints pressed nearer one another, but had the man given way so as to bend the least in the world, he must have fallen and been crushed by his burden. A very slight pillar, while upright, will support a house ; but if from any accident it is disturbed the least out of the perpendicular situation in which it was placed, down comes the fabric. Yet the same pillar, which of itself while upright could support many tons, would give way by a small portion of this weight being suspended from the middle of it, or placed on a point at the same place, while it laid across a pit with only the two ends supported on its bank ; but place an equal weight, or even a far greater, more equally placed over a larger surface of the prostrate column, and it will remain as straight as though it were unincumbered. This is the situation of the horse's back ; it is a column placed in the most unfavourable position to bear a load ; nature supported a part of it on arches, as it could not from its weakness be kept in its position without such support, and they enable the horse to do all that is necessary for himself, but we are not only not content with placing an artificial weight on his back, such as we know he can carry, but do not even wait to ascertain whether it is likely to injure him or not. By sad experience we have found three hundred pounds will break his back without we use artifical means to assist him, and though accidents are almost daily occurring which prove we still over-weight him, yet we cease to inquire whether we can serve him further. Were an old tumble-down shed, not worth five pounds, and where no inhumanity would be displayed in suffering it to fall, over-loaded, some means would be found of preventing the calamity ; then why should all ingenuity be passed where our better feelings alone ought to make us doubly inventive and

energetic? However, this is not the case, and we should rather fear that we are retrograding than otherwise when we consider that horses must have been subjected to heavier loads during the time of our ancestors when wheeled carriages were uncommon, and roads so bad as to render them useless. That the load would be distributed over the whole length of the back we should imagine, when this one part would of necessity support another, and thus the load would strengthen the back by resting on the two extremes, where the inverted arch or hollow of the back ceases, the middle of the hips and the wither. That we should turn to the clumsy, cumbersome saddles of that day, or even those of less than half a century back, we should regret as much as any one, but why not combine the elegant and the useful a little more, where required? The arguments that the horses of that day were stronger than the present race will not hold good, as we find the blood horse, and the nearer approaches our horses make to that breed, so much the stronger are his bones; and that the large dray-horse cannot bear even the same weight on his back that the blood pony bears with apparent ease, we have before shown, as proved by Mr. Tickell's experiment. On a great weight being placed on his back, it is seen to yield or bend downwards; even the weight of a heavy man placed upon his back will make it yield, and on stopping him it is even now so; and when this is done very suddenly, and his hind legs not well placed at the moment, his back gets more or less injured, and according to the degree it is termed wricked, chinked, or broken back. With either of the two former they do a little work in harness, where there is no weight upon the back; when the latter accident occurs, the horse is totally useless, and the sooner the poor wretch is put out of its misery the better.

The saddle, therefore, is intended to strengthen the back, or enable it to carry more weight, by covering a larger surface in a solid form than the two bones of the seat of the rider would possibly do. So far, the intention is good; but after this good is effected, it is immediately nearly, if not totally, destroyed, by a saddle being made small, or the rider sitting to the very extreme or tail end of his saddle. The reason for this has ever been a puzzle to us, and so it seems likely to continue, from the only answer (we will not dignify it by the name of reason) we can receive to our numerous inquiries is, Do you not think it looks more elegant? Our idea of its appearance shall now be given. Boys riding donkeys generally sit behind; they give *their reason*, and a proper one: it is more difficult for their humble nags to kick with

the weight thus thrown on his hind quarters. The others seem as if they had taken donkey drivers as their models, and had just sense enough to perceive, to ride an ass it was the usual custom to sit thus, but lacked the sense to observe *horsemen* did not adopt this seat, however many *riders* they might see thus elegantly seated, and to inquire why they differed. Sitting on the horse thus is blowing hot and cold with a vengeance; a saddle is put upon his back to strengthen it, and then they place themselves where the weight falls on the very weakest part of all the back, and where he certainly would not have placed himself without a saddle, on the loin of the horse. To make the saddle effective, the weight should be thrown as forward as possible in it; and this gives security to the seat, as well as places the weight where the back is far the strongest, being borne up by arches (the ribs) to support it. The back, we have observed, was elastic, it is therefore obvious it was made thus complicated for some wise purpose, nature never working in vain: and without these numerous joints where would be the light, easy, elastic gait of the horse? to turn would be a work of time and difficulty—now it is performed with ease and on the instant; and if the back did not yield to the weight on being pulled up, he would be heavy, shaky, and unpleasant in his action, if it were sufficiently strong for the exertion. The saddlers' business it therefore is, to weigh well all these things, and balance the advantages of the elastic back-bone against its defects, and to assist the latter without interfering with its pliable functions: if they are satisfied all the modern saddles do this, there is an end to the subject; but not being ourselves convinced that this *desideratum* is achieved, perhaps some may be open to conviction, and to them and the riders will we make our observations. Trees with bent bars, from only pressing on one part of the horse, and that immediately under the seat of the rider, are of little use, if any at all, as strengtheners of the horse's back: that with straight bars is better, taking a greater length of back in its range, yet not confining its motion. The hussars' saddles, with the projections behind, are admirably calculated for strengthening the back of the horse, and to enable him to carry weight; but the intention of these was more to prevent the *velisse* from wearing and galling his back, than to prevent their wracking. For all cavalry, particularly the heavy, these projections are admirable, but then they should be of such a length as to go to the extremity of the loin, reaching as far as its termination between the hips: neither should it touch, but be parallelled underneath, to prevent its hurting the horse when it did reach

him by being suddenly pulled up, or an extra weight thrown on them. The reason why these ends should not touch the back is, they would interfere with his turning and the yielding of the back. For heavy men the saddle cannot be too long, but as they do not carry a velisse or sheepskin, it would be useless to recommend any thing so conspicuous as the projections mentioned ; they should therefore be as nearly as possible taken in the length of the seat.

LADIES' SADDLES AND A FEW WORDS ON THEIR SEAT.

For ladies, the saddles are never made long enough : this is the cause of so many of them riding badly ; they are uncomfortable and have not room, being continually shifted in their seat : they also do more injury to horses' backs at all times than men, even where they are lighter and ride more quietly. Their saddles being long enough will tend greatly to prevent this ; the length should be that when the right leg is placed over the head of the saddle in the usual way of riding, the saddle project at least four inches beyond them. If the lady is heavy and short, the saddle should be made to reach nearly or quite across the loin, either by the projections or otherwise. Should the projections be objected to, look being more studied than humanity, if there are any ladies who will sacrifice the latter to the former, the saddle may be made with a little fall in the seat, the rise from which only to begin where the seat of the lady ends. This excusable artifice will reconcile her to the looks of the size of the saddle, as she will feel when on it, as if she occupied the whole seat. By carrying the bend a little further forward, the rider will be pushed forward, so that it will seem too short ; this error must therefore be avoided. Here we must warn saddlers never to suffer themselves, or the owners of ponies, to get into the absurd mistake of having a little saddle made for them. It is true their backs are much stronger than horses', and therefore do not require the same support ; but they are capable of carrying large saddles quite as easily to themselves, the principal difference in the fit between these Lilliput and Brobdignag horses consisting in the size round the body ; therefore let fitting the rider as to the length be the first consideration, and ultimately it will be found to give most satisfaction. With ladies more especially are they called upon to have the saddles large, let the horse be what size it may, as many more ladies are made bad horse-women from this false economy, for such we consider it, to save a few shillings in a saddle to make them sit awry ever after ; yet this is the

effect; but let them have a comfortable (large long) saddle, and be shown properly at first how to sit, and there will be no crooked spines, or very few indeed, to those ladies who, early in life, take much horse exercise, neither will consumption hardly ever assail them. What has been said of bending the bars of gentlemen's saddles applies to ladies also, with this exception, that here the fault is ten times greater, as the evils resulting from it are thus numerically opposed to that abominable fault. Ladies, as we should suppose, frequently meet with the misfortune of their saddles turning round, from which the most serious and dreadful accidents have befallen them: this the saddler considers he has nothing to do with, it is no fault of his, he argues; the person who fastens it, ought to do his duty and fix it properly: we, however, tell him differently, and though the groom is culpable, he is not blameless.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

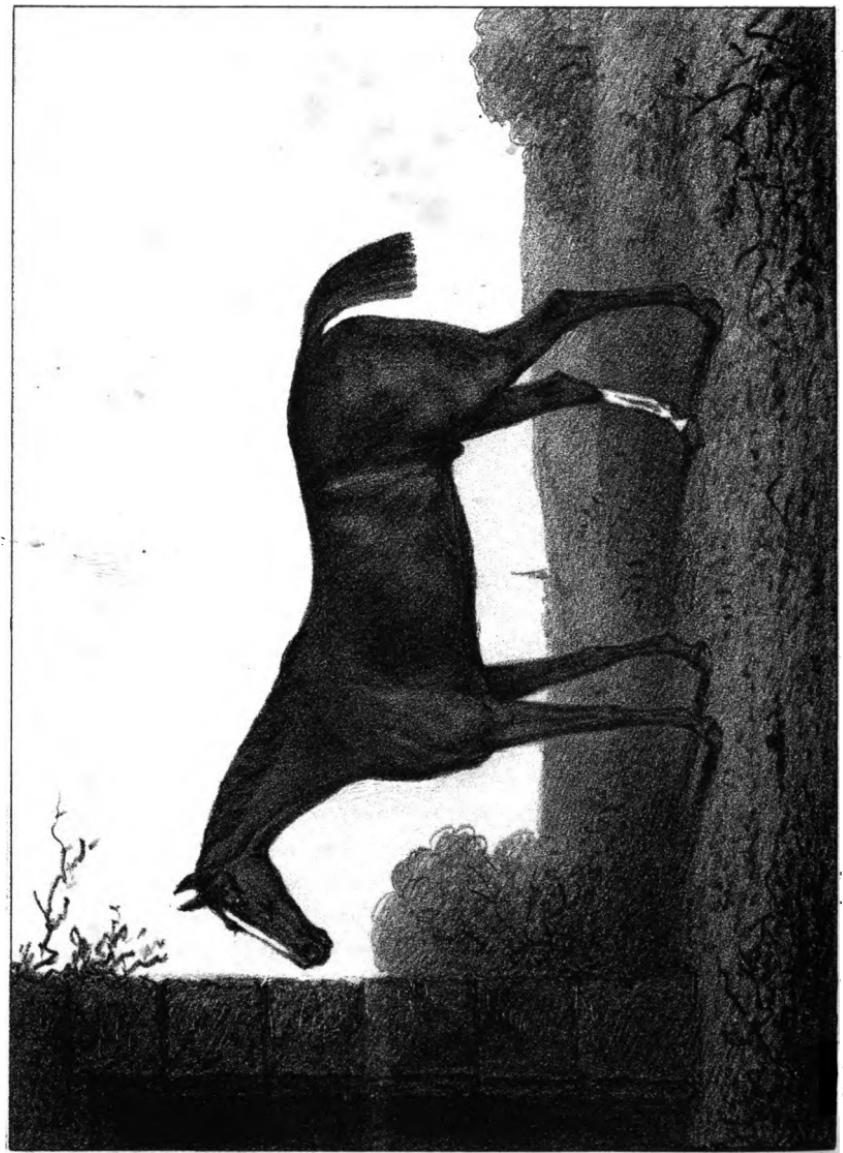
ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"A. L." We do not ever remember having seen a "cream-coloured horse thorough-bred." It is true that His Majesty's cream-coloured horses have red eyes. There is no difficulty in getting to see the horses at Pimlico.

"F. I." Green food at this season of the year is serviceable to all horses, but the small quantity usually allotted to the horse is of little service. Were they generally fed on it, we should have fewer horses with inflamed feet, keeping the stomach in order being a great assistant to having the feet cool, and the purging would go off in a few days. Certainly, give the usual quantity of corn, if the horse has the same work to perform. At some livery-stables we believe it is their practice to charge extra for tares, and deprive the horse of both corn and hay: during the time he is allowed one bundle per diem. It is not therefore wonderful that horses lose their condition while thus starved, but the tares are not to blame for this. The remedy is seen from the above; move your horses to a more honest stable-keeper, and let the rogue starve in his turn.

ECLIPS

Published by J. Hamblet & Co. Home Office, 10, Pall Mall, S.W. Printed and Published by J. Hamblet & Co. at the Standard Works, 10, Pall Mall, S.W.



H. B. C. 1882

We have taken great part of the following account of Eclipse, from Capt. Thomas Brown's "Biographical Sketches of Horses," which we consider the best of the many published histories of that extraordinary horse.

ECLIPSE

Was bred by his Royal Highness William, Duke of Cumberland, and was foaled during the great eclipse that happened on the 1st day of April, 1764, from which circumstance he took his name. He was never beat, nor even paid a forfeit, and was allowed by all ranks of sportsmen to be the fleetest and best horse that ever ran in the world, either before or since the time of Flying Childers. After winning King's plates and other prizes, to a great amount, he was kept as a stallion, and gained to his owner, for forty mares, the great sum of thirty guineas each. Eclipse was got by Mask, son of Squirt, a son of Bartlett's Childers, (own brother to Flying Childers,*) which was got by the Darley Arabian,† Eclipse's dam, Spiletta, (dam also of Garrick and Proserpine); was purchased by his Royal Highness of the late Sir Robert Eden, Bart., and was got by Regulus, son of the Godolphin Arabian; his grandam (called Mother Western) by Smith, son of Snake, brother to Williams's Squirrel, that won the King's guineas at York, in 1725; his great grandam by Lord d'Aroey's Old Mustague, out of a daughter of Old Hautboy, and she out of a daughter of Brimmer. After the duke's decease, he was purchased, a colt, for seventy-five guineas, by Mr. Wildman, the sporting sheep salesman at Smithfield, who had a good stud, and trained race-horses, at Mickleham, near Epsom. This person had a friend in the service of the duke, who gave him a hint of the superior points in the form of this horse, and he hastened to attend the sale; but, before his arrival, he had been knocked down at seventy guineas. He, however, instantly appealed to his watch, which he knew to be an exceedingly correct time-piece; he found that the appointed hour of sale had not yet arrived by a few minutes, according to advertisement. He then firmly persisted that the sale had not been a lawful one, and that the lots knocked down should be again put up, which was accordingly done, and Eclipse was purchased by him for the sum of seventy-five guineas.

* A Plate of which we gave with our 12th Number.

† Who was given with our 6th Number.

For what reason, we have never been able to learn, this celebrated horse was never raced till he was five years of age, at which time he was entered at Epsom for the maiden plate of fifty pounds. At first trial, such were the expectations of the knowing ones, that four to one were betted in his favour. At the second and winning heat of this race, all the five horses were close together at the three-mile-post, when some of the jockeys used their whips. At this time Eclipse was going at an easy gallop, when he took alarm at the crack of the whip, bounded off at his full speed; and although Oakley, his rider, was a man of powerful arm, he was not to be restrained, and, in consequence, distanced the whole of his competitors.

In the year 1770, Eclipse ran over the course at York, for the subscription purse, against two aged horses then in high repute, Tortoise and Bellario: He took the lead, and the jockey being unable to hold him in, he was fully a distance before the other two horses at the end of the first two miles, and won the race with the greatest ease. At starting, twenty, and, in running, one hundred guineas to one were offered on him.

Before Eclipse ran for the King's plate at Winchester, 1769, Mr. O'Kelly purchased the half share of him for six hundred and fifty guineas. He afterwards became the sole proprietor for an additional sum of one thousand guineas. It is said, that some of the Bedford family asked O'Kelly, in 1799, how much he would take for Eclipse, when he replied, "By the mass, my Lord, it is not all Bedford level that would purchase him." It is said, that about this period, he asked from another person the modest sum of £25,000 down, and an annuity of £500 a-year on his own life; and the privilege of sending to him annually six mares. Mr. O'Kelly said he had cleared by this horse £25,000, and his statement is supposed to be correct.

Eclipse seemed to combine all the qualities which constitute an excellent racer; his stoutness, form, and action, were excellent; he had a vast stride, and certainly never horse threw his haunches below him with more vigour or effect; and his hind legs were so spread in his gallop, "that a wheelbarrow might have been driven between them;" his agility was great, and his speed extraordinary, but we cannot estimate it justly, as no horse of his day could be compared to him. The only contemporary which was supposed at all equal to him, was Mr. Shaftoe's famous horse Goldfinder. He was never beaten, and was to have been matched against Eclipse for the King's plate on the following year, but he broke down at Newmarket in the October meeting.

Eclipse won eleven King's plates, in ten of which he carried twelve stone, and in the other ten. It was calculated, that within the course of twenty-three years, three hundred and forty-four winners, the progeny of this animal, produced to their owners the enormous sum of £158,071 12s. sterling, exclusive of various prizes. The prevailing excellence of all this horse's progeny was great speed, and they took up their feet in the gallop with wonderful activity; they were not generally famed for stoutness, but almost all of them were horses of fine temper, seldom or never betraying restiveness.

The points of Eclipse to which I would particularly direct the attention of the breeder and sportsman are, the curve or setting-on of his head, the shortness of his fore-quarter, the slant, extent, and substance of his shoulders, the length of his waist, and breadth of his loins; the extent of his quarters, and the length and substance of his thighs and fore-arms. Although he was a powerful horse, he was nevertheless thick in the wind; and in a sweat or hard exercise, he was heard to blow at a considerable distance. This famous horse died on the 27th February, at Canons, aged 26 years. His heart was taken out, and it weighed 14 lbs.

Eclipse was sire of the dam of the very famous horse Phenomenon, and also of 162 other capital racers and winners, and no less capital breeders, as their progeny fully proved. He was a beautiful light chestnut, with a blaze down his face, and his off leg behind white quite up to the hock, and about fifteen hands and a half high.

LADIES' SADDLES AND A FEW WORDS ON THEIR SEAT.

Continued.

No one will wear a crupper and breast-plate martingale; now will be his answer—ours to that, if there were no other means to prevent the danger, he ought to point it out, and there are very few persons who would allow a female friend or relation to run such extreme risk where it was properly shown to them; however, there is a method, and a more convenient one than these, we will not therefore follow up their argument further, but observe, where the horse is fat and low in the wither, a common concurrence, but more so with horses under fifteen hands than any other size, it is almost impossible to keep the saddle on for any length of time without the saddle turning, unless more than common care is resorted to; and the safest and best method is to put a strap under the points of the saddle, as recommended in an early part

of this work, and only to have two straps on each side, so that grooms and ostlers when away from home, or at any time, cannot be guilty of making the usual mistake of all stablemen in putting the girths too far back: the fore girth, when these straps are used, requires to be a very short one, neither should it be buckled too tight, or by pressing the points too hard against the sides of the horse, you may probably cause them to swell; but as we have before remarked, there is no convenience without an inconvenience also, and as these straps will effectually prevent the saddle from turning on any horse, be he as round as a tub, to secure so great a good as profound security for female equestrians must be considered by every one as worthy of the small attention it will require to ascertain the necessary degree of tightness. As a general rule, and one which is rarely wrong, girth the hind girth the first, and let it be a little tighter than for a gentleman's; then take the first girth (the one on the point straps) and buckle it from one to two holes looser; then buckle your sursingle and guard-strap, for no side-saddle should be without the latter; the weight will be placed more equal than it otherwise can be, and let the lady throw all her weight on the near side, and a strong person at the same time push at the opposite side; they will find their united efforts cannot make it turn round sufficiently far to be dangerous. Hitherto we have applied our observations to the defects which render horses not calculated to carry ladies' saddles with safety. We will now treat of those with high withers, which are better formed for this purpose, it being easier to keep a saddle in its place with horses thus having a wedge for the tree to rest against; yet, by some chance, such as the girths being too loose, either from carelessness at starting, or from the horse having been out some hours, the saddle may still slip in the usual way, but by adopting the point-straps it is impossible. Is it not, therefore, better on all occasions to be provided against an ever-occurring danger, when it can be without trouble or inconvenience, comparatively speaking? for let the point-strap girth get as loose as it will with exercise, or be buckled ever so carelessly, unless wilfully left for the purpose, the saddle cannot turn round.

Where indifferent and nervous horsewomen require a rougher seat than the one (hogskin) in general use, woollen, velveteen, or plush, taking care to put the nap the contrary way to that which they are inclined to slip; thus on the safe, the nap should lay towards the bottom of the saddle, bearing towards the horse's tail, so as to keep the leg down and a little inclining backwards; that on the seat should have the nap considerably more to the off side, that they may not feel that

sensation of slipping to the near side, so generally complained of; yet it should bear a little towards the cantle, to prevent also the sensation of slipping forward. The head (or horns) of the saddle may also be lined inside with the same stuff as the seat, placing the rough side of the nap from the top of the head to the bottom; this will prevent the legs being so easily thrown up when frightened, a very common fault with nervous persons, than which nothing can be more dangerous.

COOK'S PATENT SAFETY REIN.

This rein, at one period, caused a considerable sensation amongst some proprietors of horses; really, after seeing so many useless inventions foisted on the public, we did think there would not be any thing further to astonish us, at the total ignorance of so large a body of keepers of horses as there seems to be. But there have been three or four showing a total ignorance of the management of the horse on the part of the inventors, or the most brazened cupidity.

The inventor of the apparatus mentioned at the head of this article, is, we believe, a sailor, a class of men who are never expected to be horsemen; and he has shown, whatever firmness of seat he might possess, if he ever had any thing to do with the horse at all, the management of the animal over which he fancied he had control, was as little understood by him, as by many other of his brother patentees, and like most other absurdities recommended to the attention of horse-users for possessing miraculous powers; however, we believe, it had a considerable sale. The professed objects of this patent, were to prevent accidents from horses running away. Had the inventor known the principles upon which horses were governed, he would have been aware of the insufficiency of his plan, or rather, that his safety rein was likely to effect any thing rather than the desirable object which its proprietor anticipated from it. The patent could be applied to any number of horses, and consisted of a strong cat-gut rein attached to the bits, and communicating with the axletree. Upon the horse getting beyond the control of the driver, he had to place to his foot upon a piece of metal attached to the foot-beard of the chaise, when the cat-gut rein was immediately wound round the axletree, within a box left open at the nave of the wheel next to the body of the carriage. Of course, the faster the horse went, so much the quicker would the rein be wound round the axle; this, we believe, was considered one of the great advantages of the scheme, and which of itself

tells any horseman that it must be improper. First, what strength of bit would be requisite for the struggles of the horse? for violent they would be at this *winding-up*; and admitting he was quiet when *brought to* thus suddenly, would the common bit stand the pull? and admitting it did, would the curb hooks? and if all these did, would not the horse's jaw be broken? The bits standing, we will admit, although we apprehended even one of the heaviest Buxton bits would be broken before the horse's jaw, and no other would stand the pull: but the strongest coach curb hooks applied to any description of bit, we have seen almost straightened with a violent strong fellow (no horseman), who was cruelly pulling a horse about; in fact, we have more than once experienced considerable pain at seeing him abuse horses which we have found the gentlest:—the gentlest, when using them ourselves, but when they have got into his possession they have been altogether as restive, or more properly speaking, so maddened by injudicious treatment, that he has been able thus to straighten the strongest hooks without their appearing to feel the bit. The curb, the hooks, and the bit, we will allow, for argument, will stand; but then either his jaw-bone will be broken, and he from pain proceed in a career more maddened than before, or he will be pulled over backwards into the machine: in either case much mischief must of necessity ensue, and that to the parties who had paid for their fancied safety ten guineas, being, if we recollect right, the price charged, for each horse, be there as many as there might. Did, however, the patent answer the purpose proposed, we should most heartily recommend it as being above all price. Now, we will consider neither of the above accidents happened (though we do not see how they could be avoided), yet, when the horse felt the bit sufficiently severe to be restrained when proceeding at such a rapid pace, the moment he ceased to proceed forward to get rid of the pain, he would run back, when the driver, if he had sufficient reflection left, would take his foot off the plate before mentioned; the horse would then most likely try again to proceed, and again would be checked fiercer than ever, till some accident occurred. As this, however, is applied to the nervous and bad drivers, it is most probable they would not sufficiently recover their fright on the horse's ceasing to run forwards to give him head again, even for an instant, as we have proved: view the patent in which way we will, an inevitable accident to themselves is the result.

The horseman might be able to use it tolerably well, but not with the certainty of his hands; and, admitting he could use it with equal cer-

tainty, there would be no advantage attending it, while he can do equally well without it, and thus far it would be an encumbrance to him: by some chance it might get out of repair so as to wind-up of itself, when he did not expect it, and thus create an accident; or it might, from the same cause, not be able to unwind sufficiently freely, again creating mischief. Take it for granted, no horseman has a horse run away with him; whatever people may tell you to the contrary, they are no horsemen who contend there are such things as run-away horses. Upon making this observation the other day, we could not help smiling at a contradiction we received; or rather at the proof given of our error. "I beg your pardon, Sir," was the reply, "I have myself been run away with this very day." We knew the man to be a hard and a daring rider, but a long way from a horseman.

Another advantage claimed for the patent was, its being a valuable discovery if only applied to horses when left standing at doors, but for this it is also very improper; however, we will examine it together, as we have done, with the other objections. When the horse is left, the check rein is to be set so as to wind the horse up. The horse always starts slowly at first: he would do so here. Finding the rein pull him, he would at first give way to the bit; in other words, put his head a little more in, and probably step a little slower, and more cautiously; but still yielding till his head was painfully pressed in, he would then throw his head up with some force, when the resistance he must necessarily meet with, and the pain occasioned by so severe a check, would either throw him backwards, or cause him to run back with great violence. How this safety rein would act in a retrograde movement, we have no information; but should suppose, as a matter of course, at first it would unwind, but if the horse went one step beyond setting the rein as at first starting, that it must wind up the reverse way to that which it did at advancing, and if so, no assistance but cutting the rein could be afforded, admitting there was time for this before a serious accident occurred; for do what you would, the horse would not advance upon a rein tightened to the excess which this must be in a few yards; it would, therefore, be a certain cause of accident if the horse only advanced a few yards, though you were near enough as you imagined, by keeping your eye upon him, to catch him at the instant.

An ordinary runner can keep up with almost any horse, or even overtake him within the first one hundred yards of his starting, because no horse can get to his speed within that distance. In harness, the horse generally starts at a walk, probably for the first ten yards;

for the next twenty, he only trots moderately, and probably proceeds at his ordinary harness pace for some distance before he finds he is at liberty, and seldom breaks into the gallop until the reins fall about his heels, or something else frightens him; he therefore gives you a tolerable chance, if you keep watch, within a reasonable distance, of preventing his doing any mischief; at all events, in our opinion, far better than with this mis-called safety apparatus.

If you wish a better mode of holding the horse at a door, we will give you a secure one, without, that we are aware, a single defect. Have a strong leather strap. Let this be long enough to go round one of the spokes or fillas of the wheel, perhaps the latter would be better, and the shaft of the chaise or some part of the body of the carriage; let this be wound round twice, and then buckled with a strong buckle; the horse cannot move either forward or backwards very easily, and at first a very slight impediment will prevent their going on. We have said put the strap twice round; this is recommended to prevent the strain which would otherwise be upon the buckle, and which is more likely to give way than a strap, which, if of strong leather, need only be a single piece, and not more than one inch and a half wide. Admitting a horse was frightened at a noise, or a child in passing touched it with a whip so as to make him start, with such an impediment, he would hardly do any mischief before he was stopped, particularly if the wheel was well brought to against the curb, angling towards the houses, and that wheel the one thus locked.

A pair of horses, getting away, are always much worse to stop than a single one, and more likely to do mischief; we must therefore reprobate the practice of a coachman throwing his reins across his horses' backs, while he gets down to open the carriage door. He should keep them on his arm, or put them over the step by which he mounts his box; but not to leave hold of them is the surest, though we have known this fail, and he drawn under the wheel, and so seriously hurt as never to be able to do any thing towards getting his livelihood again, as a man thus placed on the ground has very little power over his horses. Would it not be better, particularly when ladies or children are waiting in the carriage, for a strap, such as the one described, to be passed round the filly of the fore and hind wheel, as soon as the coachman descends from his box, there to remain till the last moment before he reascends? With this caution an accident could not occur, neither could it injure any paint or varnish.

We give Mr. Cook every credit for his good intentions, and really

believe he thought his patent would effect what he intended. Windlasses, ropes, and pulleys, are extremely useful when applied to their right purposes. But neither main strength nor force will govern them—the generous beast that will resist these, will often be governed by a thread. The strap may be considered by some as applying violence to restrain them. We shall not argue the point, considering it loss of time to be splitting hairs ; but observe it does not create severe punishment, and this it is which they resist : besides, the one we know has failed, the other has succeeded admirably.

Why mention that which has failed ? To prevent a renewal at some future period, when a fresh generation rises up, and such a plan may be again revived as a fresh invention by some other person.

One of the prominent features of this safety apparatus we had overlooked ; but as we consider it one of the most absurd of its numerous miscalculations, it must not be passed without notice. For carriages, with two or more horses, as well as all four-wheeled ones, a portion of the apparatus was so placed that those sitting inside could stop the horses independent of the coachman. Only consider the absurdity of such a contrivance. Of course, nervous people would be more likely to have it than others. The coachman sees some reason for going a few yards faster than ordinary. We will instance, a turnpike gate which he is approaching on one side, while a string of carts and waggons are nearing it on the other : he sees, unless he quickens his pace, he will probably be detained some minutes. Or in some narrow street a blockade of carts is about to take place, when he knows not how long he may be detained. He therefore drives faster. To avoid it, probably has got into a tolerable swinging trot. The hypochondriac inside puts the machinery in order, the coachman is thrown off his box from the sudden check, and the horses are probably kept reined back from want of presence of mind, till the carriage is turned over, from being locked too suddenly or run into a ditch. Or perhaps near the foot of a hill, he pushes his horses on a little, to enable them to ascend the next with greater ease : the insiders may fancy, on seeing the trees recede a little faster than usual, that the horses have run away. The machinery is put in motion, when over they all go together. To stage coaches it was recommended most zealously : only imagine for one moment the confusion and quarrelling it would give rise to. All wishing to possess the talisman of their destinies, one passenger would be stopping the coach the moment it proceeded beyond four miles an hour, while another would be praying that it were a spur that he might

press the horses on to twenty. Besides, others, from ignorance of its purpose, would be examining it, and thus upsetting the coach, by stopping it too speedily, or with the horses in a wrong position, independent of the accidents caused by children. How could the regularity of time, for which our coaches are so eminent, be preserved? The coachman would almost be a cypher, a mere hook to hang the reins upon, or serve as a finger-post to point out the road.

A PATENT BIT.

The next patent for consideration is a bit, which we were induced to look at from several would-be clever horsemen speaking of it in raptures as one of the wonders of the age. The agent for the sale of them lived in Surrey, and very politely explained what had been represented to him by the inventor, a Frenchman, as its many advantages, laying great stress upon its humanity, at the same time preventing the slightest possibility of disobedience; rearing, kicking, plunging running away, all were impracticable; in short, there was not a fault of which the horse could be guilty with this bit in his mouth, according to the printed catalogue of its virtues, and the oral echo of the agent, who dwelt most pathetically upon the humane principle of the horse so suddenly being reduced from the greatest viciousness to the most complete obedience, merely by the introduction of this instrument. While he was thus expatiating, we were examining the bit, about which we could neither discover any thing particularly miraculous nor humane; however, we waited with patience for his explanation of how it acted, deeming there might be something more than met the eye.

The bit had better be described, to enable you to better understand its properties. It had two mouth-pieces; one to slide up and down about one inch on the cheek, the other was fixed, similar to the common curb bit, which was the top one; to the sliding mouth-piece was attached a rein to move it up and down, the avowed intention of which was, at any time the horse became unruly, to pinch his tongue between these two mouth-pieces, as in a vice. Very "humane," to be sure, and "not inflicting the least punishment," which the prospectus expressed. Had he consulted some of those gentry who tie whiccord round unruly horses' tongues, they would have been informed the tongue was not such an insensible organ. However, whether this plan is humane or not, is hardly worth questioning, as there is a much greater difficulty for the inventor to get over. Mrs. Glass says, "First

catch your hare," &c. ; this would apply to the horse's tongue. Admitting that his tongue occasionally got between these bars, as undoubtedly it would with a horse that champed his bit, how many chances are there against its being in the trap at the precise moment required for the "humane" pinch, and how little must the inventor know of the horse to suppose him that dull, heavy, stupid creature to imagine for one moment that the first gripe would not be the last. The horse is a sagacious animal, and would no more put his tongue in a place that pained it so excessively, than a child would handle a silver tea-pot after discovering that it burnt him. Had we placed implicit faith in the account given before the bit was exhibited, we should have concluded the colt-breaker's business was over ; but found it ended, like many other notable projects for taming horses, in the vision of the projector's brain. The agent was one of the Society of Friends, who really seemed, as he expressed himself, only anxious to introduce them to save the horse pain ; but as he was convinced by our observations they did not possess any advantage of the kind, he should cease to sell them ; neither do we believe he has violated his promise,

INFALLIBLE SAFETY BRIDLE ; OR, LIFE PRESERVER.

The question of, What is there in a name ? naturally suggests itself when such pompous and important terms are used for that which will not effect the promised purpose. The apparatus under consideration is not so objectionable as some, having the neutral quality of neither doing good nor harm, if we except the greatest evil it possesses, that it may, by deceiving those who really have a horse to dread into a fancied security, cause accidents from which serious evil may arise ;—its least evil, that of being an extra weight to the horse's head, helping to heat him in warm weather ;—its greatest advantage, that it can effect no other evil by causing unnecessary pain to the animal. The same justice which we have awarded to the others induces us to describe this captivating titled apparatus, with our reasons for not agreeing with the projector that "by the use of this simple, safe, and admirable apparatus, namely, the infallible safety bridle, the most unruly horse may not only be controlled at will, but, moreover, instantaneously stopped, in the most furious speed, without the least danger or difficulty to either horse, rider, or driver." In speaking of Cook's patent, we mentioned the latter assertion of stopping a horse instantly, when in the most furious speed, without danger is impracticable ; but ad-

mitting there was not any danger from suddenly stopping the horse, this bridle would not effect the professed object. The "infallible safety" is attached to the head of a common bridle by a buckle and strap. It consists of a long rein of leather plated round; this passes through the strap at the head of the bridle round the horse's throat, through a double pulley at the bottom or windpipe: it rises again nearly on a level with the temples, and here passes over two pulleys again; then falls down as low as the bridoon rein, where it once more passes through two pulleys, and from thence to the hand of the user. At the bottom of the throat was mentioned a double pulley, to this is attached a martingale. The way this "Life Preserver" (may our life never depend upon it!) acts, is, when the rein is pulled, that portion which goes round the neck is to draw so tight as to stop the horse's respiration. We understand it is a German invention; otherwise we should have concluded it originated from some person who had observed that most of our repository-attending horse-dealers gripe the horse's throat with thumb and finger, to stop their breath, in order to ascertain whether they cough sound. Had the inventor, however, known the precise way in which this suspension of breath was effected, he never would have harboured his plan for an instant. The bit is the lever by which the throating is to be drawn tight, therefore pulling this rein first draws the horse's head more closely in, or the one will be drawn in as soon as the other is tightened. Now to stop the breath of the horse with the thumb and finger, the nose must be thrown a little forward to enable them to get just at the termination of the windpipe next the head, as it is only here, and in this position, that they can compress it sufficiently to effect any purpose. When the nose is in, the windpipe cannot be compressed to effect any purpose without much more power than this rein can exert, or than can be employed without very considerable injury. Indeed, we do not see, with the horse's head reined in, as shown by their own drawing, how it can act anywhere but on the horse's cheek bones, and there you might press to eternity without effecting your object. Now for the ostensible use of the martingale, attached to this throatlash. "Life Preserver" was, after you had choked your horse into obedience, that it should again loosen the apparatus to let the horse breathe as before. To effect this a single strap of leather would not be sufficient, as it would also resist the drawing together this "infallible Life Preserver;" it therefore has a spring, secreted in leather. Such is the "simple, safe, and admirable apparatus." For horses, we consider it perfectly useless as a suffo-

cating machine: whether it can be applied to any useful purpose in any other way, we leave to the consideration of that dreaded functionary, the finisher of the law.

THE BRIGHTON PLAN.

This we never saw but once > it consisted of a round rein passing through the rings of the curb-bit over the nostrils of the horse, so as to contract or close the nostrils when he pulled beyond a certain degree of violence. That it is more likely to effect the purpose intended than the preceding, we feel satisfied; but never having seen it in use, it is impossible to say whether the invention answers the intended purpose: the presumption is, that it does not, or we should occasionally meet with them.

MARTIN VAN BUTCHELL,

whom many of our readers will most probably recollect, at one time rode with a spring blind attached to the bridle, so that he could let it up and down at pleasure, but, like most of the other contrivances, it only served to show, that however ingenious the inventor might be, he knew nothing of the animal under those particular circumstances, for which he is pleased to imagine he has discovered a remedy, and we find at the very moment when most required, they would prove utterly useless. Of that class is the moveable curtain if applied to

RUNAWAY HORSES,

for they never face that which frightens them, but run from it casting their eyes in the direction of the object of alarm, consequently behind them; this is also the direction in which a horse can see the easiest from the position of his eyes; and that he only looks behind when alarmed, is proved by many circumstances, one of which is, that let him look which way he will, his ears are also laid in the same direction, that they may assist him in forming conclusions from any sound he may catch; therefore, as they are invariably laid back and close pressed upon the neck when in flight, his eyes must be straining to see as far behind him as possible; he will run against any thing when thus alarmed, which, at another time, he will avoid as a serious danger. Some have argued that he does not look before him, from the circumstance of his not stopping when you put his head direct to a wall until

he comes violently in contact with it, from which many of the most serious and dangerous accidents have occurred. We do not, however, consider this so strong a proof as that which we have just mentioned,—not noticing what at other times would, of themselves, be considered objects of serious alarm. Our reason for entertaining such an opinion is, we have found horses which have never been within walls, but only used to hedges and railings as a fence, will even when going at a very slow pace, and that without being in the least alarmed, and, therefore, looking all about them, instead of turning out of the way on approaching a wall, he will run at once against it, often evidently from the direction of his ears, looking intently on it all the time. This we have repeatedly seen, having tried the experiment innumerable times. We were at first induced to do so from a colt which we had brought out of the fields in which he had hitherto gambolled without the least restraint, into a closely pannelled building, about seventy feet long and thirty wide ; an accidental noise was made, the colt bolted off through the building, about twelve feet beyond which was a garden wall ; against this he ran his head, but finding it not give way, he turned round, and then ran through another part of the wooden partition into the building again. At the time we certainly were astonished, and feeling at a loss to account for it, examined his eyes, which before we had always considered perfect. We could not discover any defect ; this induced us to inquire of experienced horsemen whether they had ever experienced any thing of the sort, but could get no satisfactory answer from any of them, all maintaining that the eyes must be bad, look as they would, as no horse could be such a fool as to run against any thing which would hurt him, while he could see it. Some of them we got to examine him ; some could not see any thing, others were not quite sure, but thought they could see a trifling something *very deeply seated*, but all agreed there was not any appearance in the eye to account for such defective vision, and even the *deep sighted* ones agreed, unless there had been great cause for suspicion, they certainly should not have noticed any thing ; only one piece of advice was given, and that was universally agreed by all parties—Sell him ; there is not one in a thousand will ever discover any thing the matter with him till it is too late to return him. Either obstinacy, to which they attributed it, or as we, putting the best construction on our own acts, from always having a desire to ascertain facts, and to have our opinion whether his eyes were good, either refuted or confirmed, as well as to ascertain the cause, if possible, of the movement which had so much astonished all

who were made acquainted with it, induced us to keep him ; and we found, alarm him as much as it was possible, he would run and plunge about, but never attempt to make his exit again at any other place than the door. We had him about a year and a half after this, and a better sighted animal never existed.

Reflecting upon this, and remembering Buffon's observation, that children were practical philosophers, and that they knew not until they touched that which attracted their attention, what would and what would not hurt them, such as the fire, and a variety of other things, we began to try and apply this reasoning to colts. We then recollect in the biography of a person who was born blind, but obtained his sight at, as near as we can recollect, fourteen years old, that he saw objects very differently from those who had their sight perfect from their birth : for instance, in a picture, he could not perceive the roundings, nor understand what was meant by the terms, the finest likenesses appearing mere flat paintings, and it was some time before he could understand them. From these we considered, might not a colt's situation be considered somewhat similar to either or both of these, for though not deprived of sight, yet they frequently are of the opportunity of seeing walls and touching them, so as to understand their solidity and resistance. This train of thought led us to try a chestnut colt which had been trained, and was only withdrawn through illness a few days prior to the first race it was to have run. This we felt the greater inclination to do from knowing that the colt had only one side to its mouth, and had merely been trained as racing colts too frequently are, to run a course to the left, most of our courses taking this direction ; this, therefore, is the only side to which they can be turned at all ; and when it is considered that a round course of two miles is a difficult turn, and that too turning him on the side which he is handiest, that it must be hard work, as we have experienced, to turn him to the right, may be easily conceived. Such a horse then taken into a school about eighty feet long and forty broad, it will be allowed, was a tolerably fair experiment ; first we took him his best turn to the left, and at a walk with difficulty prevented his hitting his nose in the long turn (going down the side of the school.) The next corner it was impossible to prevent it, he not being aware the wall would hurt him, and it being uncomfortable for him to turn so short as was necessary, and on a space so much smaller than he had been in the habit of requiring ; he, however, hurt himself sufficiently never to try the strength of the wall again on going round to the left.

After a few turns he was put round the school to the right: here it was impossible to turn him until he had hit his nose against the corner; at the next, the same; the third he would not for some time face, but managed at last not to run against it; neither did he ever afterwards. Had the horse, at first, been attempted to be rode into the corners as school horses usually are, we should not have been surprised; but he could not, even when surrounded with walls, turn in the same room as a waggon horse. From this we tried horses of all ages and descriptions, and found, unless they had been in a school before, they would, if rode, unless turned by the rider, invariably walk with their noses up to the wall before turning, and for this reason we have always found, where it was convenient to take colts between four walls to lounge or break them, to lead them gently up to the wall and touch their noses against the corner in turning, assisted in making them much more ruly afterwards, and prevented a great deal of struggling, as they knew they could not get away. We once saw a gentleman meet with a very severe accident, through not being aware of this; he had been in the habit of riding regular school horses when in the school, which knew the effects of walls well enough, and therefore would go round of themselves. He, however, one day took a horse of his own which had not been used to such confinement, and started off in a canter, leaving the horse to take the corners without assistance from the rider; the consequence was, the horse went with such force against the wall, that he reared up, staggered, and fell backwards, injuring his rider materially for some time after.

(To be Continued.)

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

“S. R.” We feel obliged for his communication respecting the examiner. It shall appear in our next, or an early number.

“T. C.” Ponies are never roarers. Carriage horses of the larger size are almost invariably so, after eight years old.

“W. A.” We are aware who sent the communication thus signed. It is a paltry subterfuge for an advertisement, which is seen through.

RUNAWAY HORSES.—*Continued.*

Having proved two things when horses run away,—first, that they do not look before them; secondly, that unless they have been used to walls, they will not avoid them when they do see them, even though they are not in the least alarmed; the first proves that the curtain plan of Van Butchell would be useless as applied to runaway horses; and the second, that admitting the horse did see before him, that taking a horse towards a wall in the hope that the sight of it would stop his career, is a dangerous experiment. But both being considered, we need not be surprised when accidents result from such a mistake, for such it most assuredly is. How often have we heard people, when speaking of horses that have run away, talking of their having run themselves blind, all the proof of which they could adduce was, that it ran against a house, or a wall, the horse being able to see as well as ever the moment he was stopped; this is when the horse was known to be a quiet one, and started from accident. Another, to show the viciousness of a horse he does not know much about, will say he is such a determined ill-tempered brute, he ran against a wall at full speed. Having fulfilled our promise in an early part of this work, as regards three inventions, we will defer what we have to say of the others for, at any rate, this number, but promise to renew the subject, by considering the merits of others.

We have mentioned, in taking horses, not accustomed to schools, round one of the corners the first time, it is a good way to let their noses touch the wall in turning. Where this is done, you should be careful that the side of the nose only is brought in contact with the wall, when the horse is about three-quarters turned, as this will not make him shy of the corners, and afraid to go close into them when required: this should also be done a quietly as possible, it not being necessary to give the horse pain; merely showing him that it is a hard firm body will be quite sufficient to prevent him from choice going against it again. If you put his face direct to the wall, and thus take him against it, he will not be got near one again without some trouble, and be a long time before he takes the corners properly.

DRIVING.

This is one of those things which every man imagines he can ac-
No. 17.

complish in a short time, and that the moment he can turn a corner, however clumsily, still he is satisfied that he has succeeded with all the dexterity of the most accomplished whip. Horsemen must have noticed that there are not two out of twenty of those who have the common reputation of being whips, who really have the least pretension to the title. As for the innumerable number that are allowed to pass without observation, they are so dreadfully in the rear as to all pretensions of coachmanship, that there ought to be an act of parliament either to oblige them to learn the science better, or keep them, when holding the reins, at least on the country side of every ten mile stone round London, for even without that circuit the lives and limbs of his Majesty's subjects are always endangered when they choose to exercise their driving abilities ; but in the streets of London, they are one of the greatest plagues that can be introduced. Every person who happens to be driving a lighter or more gaily painted vehicle than their own, avoids them as they would a firebrand, knowing if they do not take care of themselves, it is out of the power of the monster they are meeting to do so for them. A coachman's eye detects them in one moment ; every thing betrays them—the way the harness is put together would of itself be sufficient ; so would the way he sits in his carriage, or the way he holds his reins : should however all these fail, the gait of the horse is not to be mistaken. Could they but see a picture of themselves, drawn by Cruikshank, they would laugh at the ridiculous figure they cut.

These last-mentioned being so bad that we consider them incurables, unless the artist last mentioned could make them laugh at one another till they wrought some emulation and improvement amongst themselves, any thing we can say would be thrown away upon them. Our observations will, therefore, be addressed to those before mentioned, who have more ambition to excel as masters in the art. To begin : one question we will ask, When they wanted to coax a horse to come to them, would they flog him ? What a question ! Would you even show him the whip ? Certainly not. Then let me ask you why it is, when you want a horse to turn to the right, that you pull the right rein, and flog the horse on that side at the same time ?

Every man's own observation, had he not had sense enough to suppose so, we should have thought, would have taught him that the horse always runs from the whip ; then, is not this method telling the horse to perform two opposite movements at one and the same time ? The right side we have instanced, and should have concluded the left

we need not have said a word about, as what applies to the one side, of necessity applies to the other : but fearing want of reflection, or whatever the deficiency may arise from, might prevent those who commit this fault from applying the same plan to both sides, we here tell them, to turn to the left, tighten the left rein, and, *when requisite*, hit the horse on the right side. To turn to the right, tighten that rein, and if *if you hit the horse at all*, let it be on the left side.

A very few hours back we saw a cavalry officer seated by the side of his groom ; the latter was driving, and, in our presence, no less than four turns effected by this servant, he flogged the horse at every one of them, and invariably whipped the poor beast on the side he ought not, the one he was turning to. Cavalry men are generally bad whips ; this we can only suppose must be from want of reflection, for the rules of riding are to be observed in driving : it is, therefore, a disgrace to them not to drive rather above the common level ; riding being a part of their profession, therefore, ought to be their pleasure ; the business of their lives, and, therefore, ought to be their study. More than once have we heard it insisted, when some bungling military driver was the subject of conversation, that the deficiency must be either from idleness, or want of capacity for the situation they have chosen, when they are not as elegant and easy in handling the long reins, as those who have much less time to devote to the pursuit, and whose time is occupied in other, and very different, businesses and professions. Some of our readers may think we have stepped out of our way to make these remarks, but we have done so in hopes of serving him whom we have all along professed to assist, "The Horse," and we shall not consider any thing which we can do, that is likely to save him wanton, thoughtless, useless chastisement, as not coming within the meaning of this work.

To return, however, to the driving, as turning corners is not all we have to do, hold your reins so that you just feel there is something at the end of them : this is much more comfortable to the horse than either pulling at his mouth or leaving the reins dangling on his back ; besides which, he will answer them more readily, and mark, *one hand* is quite enough for the reins, whether to move out of the way of other carriages, to turn a corner, or any thing else. These remarks apply to driving either one or two horses.

It is rarely that we see this done, but it is sufficient ; and that two horses can be turned so, is enough to prove the usual practice of tugging and hauling one poor horse about with two hands is ridiculous

and cruel. Let one of these pulling gentry be put behind four horses, each of which pulled as much as he makes one when driving, how could he possibly hold them? This is one of the errors which you get into from not understanding terms, being told that the horse should be made to go up to his bit, and so he should, or his gait will be lounging and slovenly; but there is a difference, and a very great one, between going up to the bit, and pressing hard upon it, for where allowed to do the latter, his paces will be bad also; neither should you ever hit a horse across the loins, or on the hind quarters, or you will most probably cause him to kick, unless they have been used to coachmen like yourself. Hitting on the side, we have shown, assists in turning the horse; in fact, will alone turn him, unless you give at the moment a slight pull on the rein on the same side; it is, therefore, always better, prior to hitting your horse, to consider which way you wish him to bear, and by this be guided as to the place. Where you wish him to go straight forward, to hit down the collar, so that the end of the thong falls on the front of the chest, is the best place; to turn, on the side of the shoulder or the neck, according to the room you wish to take; and in turning, always get the horse's head more than half across the road you mean to take, before you show what you intend him to do; this will bring the axle of the chaise on a level with the angle of the corner, and, therefore, all fear of catching any thing with the wheel is over, or of being so far off the crown of the road, as to upset from the gutter, or lowness of the side. Never to look at your wheel is another rule: you should accustom yourself to learn to measure by the eye. The room required on each side of the horse's head, to let the wheels pass freely, where a pair of horses can be driven easily through, the wheels will follow with a single horse. From about four to five feet are required to clear the wheels, the widths not always being the same.

Your coupling reins should be of a sufficient length to let the horse work comfortably on each side of the pole, without having to wear themselves against it. The length of the pole pieces must be governed by the length of the pole and the distance the horses are to work apart;—care should always be taken that it is sufficiently short to keep the carriage off the horses, when descending hills. The traces should be of equal lengths; if there is any difference, the shortest trace should be next the pole; and where a horse runs from the pole, to take up the inner trace is a great assistance to the other horse, as well as the coachman. For this reason, we think that the holes in traces are generally punched too wide apart, thus obliging you either to twist the horse

half round, making him push the pole against his companion, or leave him to pull in an opposite direction. The present plan adopted by many coachmen, of driving their horses very wide apart, is very bad taste : their object, if they have one, must be that they require a something to show the width of the wheels, fearing, otherwise, they might be constantly coming in contact with other vehicles ; the horses thus spread out, form this guide, as wherever their heads can pass, the carriage has room to follow at corners, and on stopping it is very inconvenient.

Frequently have we observed horses thus widely driven, on being turned round a corner, bounce up against them, bolt away from one another several times, making the most awkward movements : on stopping, they are also again brought into sudden collision. Were these startings and rollings not unpleasant to the beholder, they are so to the horses ; besides, the twisting and crossing of their legs is very likely to rick them or throw them down. There is also another ridiculous custom, that of holding one rein in each hand, and wide apart ; the hands should always be close together to assist one another. The horse is a quick animal, and to prevent mischief we must be quicker than he is ; then why throw away a chance ? an accident may happen before you have time to bring your hands together and alter the reins, which would have been prevented, were they in their proper place (nearer one another) at first. In cabriolets how frequently do we see only the face of the driver leaning over, and his two hands dangling with a rein in each on the top of the apron in front, looking like any thing but what is elegant, or like a coachman. Comparisons are always odious, and this will not, by those who adopt this posture, be considered a wit more pleasant than others, but it is the truest we can give : the driver looks like a man in the pillory ; and were it not that such a punishment is abolished by law, we should tremble for those who put themselves in such a ludicrous attitude.

DRIVING WHIPS.

There is seldom sufficient attention paid to the length of the handle of these ; most persons being satisfied if they only get a neat-looking stick with a thong at the end of it. It is true, this is enough for general drivers ; precision, truth, and neatness in their turns and management, being the last thing they study ; neither do they look at the whip in any other light than as a flagellator, to make the horse go on.

How it can assist them further, they are at a loss to comprehend ; and their reason for using such an instrument at corners, is from the way in which they would handle the horse : he would stand still, were they not to titillate his memory with some clumsy blows from the thrashing machine ; upon this, therefore, each one thinks himself at liberty to exercise any whim he may have. We know one of these coachmen, who is regulated in the length of the handle by the height of the coach-house, never having one long enough to stand the chance of the top being broken, if his man should carelessly run the chaise in without removing it from the place appointed for it in the chaise ; at the same time he is aware of the necessity of hitting a horse on the fore quarters, and therefore he has an extra thong, to enable him to reach the desired part, making the whip look more like a fishing line, attached to a short rod, than a horse corrector ; not, however, being particular to the place he hits, providing it is somewhere beyond the tail of the horse ; for by reaching one inch beyond this, he considers he is quite near enough ; although, if he had been asked prior to lifting the instrument, he would have said he was going to hit the shoulder. He has not discovered the inconvenience attending such an instrument in wet weather. The whip we prefer, is a light yew stick, what is called tandem length ; the convenience of such a stick we have often found. First, it enables you to touch the horse as lightly as you please, and with the greatest precision at all times, wet or dry, and with a young horse is a far better assistant than half the men usually taken to jump in and out to turn him when obstinate, or keep him straight when he will not answer the rein, as you can reach his neck with the stick at the required moment, and even tap the winker if you find it necessary, and this he will always run from.

Our reason for preferring a yew stick is, although they are more difficult to get straight than a holly one, yet they are far tougher and more trusty, and where you do succeed in getting a straight one, they last an immense length of time. Why, a long thong or a short stick cannot be handled with the dexterity of a four-horse whip, which is longer, and can easily be understood : the driver, for one reason, is placed less advantageously to use it, and in the next, when horses are running side by side, they keep one another straight : but there only being one horse, here it is necessary that the driver use such a whip as will answer the purpose of keeping them as straight as possible. Rolling and turning horses about the road, makes them cut, cross their legs, and tumble down.

The holly stick is in more general request than any other, on account of keeping more straight, with less care, and not so commonly warping after being exposed to the wet some hours. They also require to be kept a shorter time after cutting to dry than yew, previous to making up. The latter, ought to be kept hanging in a dry place three years before using; for the holly, a few months will suffice; but then, these sticks are more brittle; besides being subject to what are termed dead knots, and when this is the case, a sudden bend is sure to break them at that knot. This the greater portion of drivers must have experienced from the injudicious way they use them. A coachman who knows how to handle the whip dexterously, makes one last a long time. To break a holly stick, you have only to put in practice the most abominable and ungentlemanly method of using the tool, termed flanking; that is, hitting the horse with a jerk of the stick, and bringing the point of the thong only on him. This is considered an extremely clever feat by some vulgar coachmen. The common way of bringing the thong down on the horse's back a long way before the stick, so as to be a drag upon it, is also a sure and nearly as speedy a way as the former of breaking the whip; for, admitting there are no cracked knots before, this is sure to have the effect of dividing some of them. The only proper way to bring the whip upon the horse, is to let the handle and thong fall nearly in a straight line, until that part which you wish to touch him has done so, then raise it as smartly as you require. Pursue this method, and, free from accident, you may use a stick, though half-cracked, longer than the injudicious flagellator can a sound one. Never have a piece of whipcord or lash of any kind to the end of your thong; this shows an inexperienced coachman as soon as any thing. We have been told by its advocates, it is more humane to frighten a horse than beat him: granted, but other noises will equally answer the purpose, such as whisking over his ears, as if you would strike him; or the common way of clacking with the mouth, or to let the thong touch as lightly as possible, cannot be cruel, and these are sufficient modes without annoyance to any one. Whipcord and lashes are a perpetual annoyance without a single advantage, for if the horse will not answer the friendly hints just mentioned, a smack of the whip will be as little likely to start him; you have then no other resource than hitting, when the lash will be found everlastinglly entangling in the harness, and should the sweat of the horse or rain make it wet, the inconvenience is ten times greater. The fall of a whip is a matter of some consequence to those who wish to use it with precision, or to have it

last, and feel light and pleasant in hand. To effect these desirable purposes, the thong should be light for the stick. This last should be long, not only for the purposes before mentioned, but that you may hold a little way from the end of it, so as to let the handle balance the thong: this will prevent the pain occasioned by the upper part of the whip having to be supported by the wrist. The fall should neither be close to the handle nor in the middle, but begin a few inches from it, or rather at two-thirds of the whole length from the end you hold, and continue equally to the top. Should the stick bend any where but in the place mentioned, or even then with a sudden bend, rely on it, at that place it will soon snap. Neither should the stick be much filed away, particularly when a holly one is used. Proper whip-sticks being difficult to procure, they are only to be met with at respectable makers' and saddlers, and a good price must be paid for them, but few sticks comparatively being all that is required for this purpose. This will be more readily credited when it is considered they ought to be grown perfectly straight, and tapering gradually from the one extremity to the other; and when found thus perfect, they are to be kept hanging by the smaller end three years before they are fit for manufacturing into whips. A correspondent, who has led us into these remarks, will not after this, consider a trifle beyond two shillings (the price at which whips are hawked about the street) sufficient for a superior whip at one of the first-rate shops. But it certainly is an imposition, if one of no better quality was palmed upon him at a high price, "as a perfect grown crop;" most probably a mistake has accidentally occurred. The whip is divided into three portions; the handle, (this is the part covered for the hand,) plaited whalebone is the neatest and best thing used for the purpose; the ferrels should always be of ivory, mother-of-pearl, or any thing rather than silver or metal of any kind, as these dirt the gloves. The stick is termed a crop; the thong follows, as a matter of course. As soon as the whip comes in, it should be hung up by a piece of string tied round the thong at the end of that part which is kept upright by whalebone, but never tie the point of the thong to the stick when you hang it up, as this makes it curl, catch, and tie in knots.

Never drive your horse fast up to the curb, and then pull up suddenly at the door; this is a very ungentlemanly practice, and painful and injurious to the horse. A horseman may sometimes check his horse suddenly with advantage, but he will only do so when he sees abundant occasion for it. To drive a pair of horses, nearly the same

management is required as to drive one, the principal difference consisting in turning ; and here you hold one horse back, or make him go slower, while you quicken the pace of the other horse. This is seldom managed with dexterity ; one horse is very frequently snatched back away from his collar, while the other is being flogged round at great speed, and when they have got round, the inside horse is flogged up to his collar with a jerk, which is increased by the outside horse being violently drawn back from his collar ; he is then allowed to resume his station by another plunge. Absurd as the very description of this must show it to be, yet hourly do we see it exhibited by professed coachmen who are intrusted with the management of valuable cattle. In turning a corner, both horses should be up to their collars, and each taking his weight, the horse next the corner bearing from the pole, the outer one passing to it, but not laying to the pole and pushing the other horse, as if throwing him over was the object of his companion and of the driver.

Holding the reins for either one horse or a pair is the same : let the near or left rein be brought over the top finger of the left hand, and the off rein between the second and third fingers. When you have occasion to take hold of the reins with the right hand to assist the left, let it take the off rein, and when driving only one or two horses, the right hand should rarely cross to the left side, but alter or pull the left rein as may be required from behind that hand ; this always shows the free use of the reins : but where you put the right hand before the left, the latter must be put again before it for any alteration that may be required, and thus much time is lost while the mischief you wished to avoid ensues ; but drawing the reins from behind the left hand, if to shorten both the reins or the left one only, saves much time, for the right hand will by this plan be always at liberty to use the whip. At present, were we to take the bulk of the drivers as a criterion of the proper way to drive, it would run thus : to drive one horse, two hands fully employed by the reins, a third hand much wanted for the whip ; driving a pair nearly as much required ; but to drive four, two hands are fully sufficient, four-horse coachman knowing they must hold the reins in the left hand to leave their right at full liberty to alter the reins or use the whip as required. Any person of common reflection will see from this how ridiculous to a horseman it must seem to see all the fuss which is usually made at driving one and two horses, for to any one who has never driven in their lives, it must be evident four horses and as many reins must require more management than two.

VETERINARY OPINIONS.—*Continued.*

What can be more abominable than a professional man betraying trust, particularly where the profession requires that you should place confidence in those belonging to it? yet do we see such trusts betrayed in every way daily. A gentleman has just informed us of one of those tricks which we had before heard was practised, but would not believe the person named could be guilty of such practices; that others have been in the habit of doing this, we knew, and only considered these diabolical actions were natural to them. But when men who, from the situation they hold, and the practice they have, must be well off, and associated with gentlemen, stoop to such practices, they ought to be exposed with name and residence. Hoping this will prevent such base trickery occurring again in that quarter, we will spare them further than recounting the occurrence here alluded to.—A gentleman took a horse for an opinion; it was pronounced unsound; a second was taken with similar results; the veterinarian then said, “I can recommend you a horse belonging to a customer of mine, and really it will save you some time and money, as you seem to know very little about them. The gentleman felt much obliged for *this disinterested kindness*, and took the address of the horse away with him. A day or two elapsed before he called where directed, when the ostler at the livery stables informed him the owner of the horse he wished to see had taken him out of town for a short time. After leaving the yard, and recollecting the manner of the ostler and the examiner, he fancied there was more than he could understand, and returned with the determination of making further inquiries. At the entrance stood a different man to the one he before saw; he asked him whether he knew the horse, and from him learnt that the horse had come from the examiner’s, who had sent him as a purchaser, that it came to the stable before it was cured, and that he had been attending the horse every day, and had on that day taken him away to his own hospital two hours before, he being much worse. He was also informed by this man that the horse actually belonged to the examiner, and that the horse was put there in a false name on purpose that he might be brought to his own master for examination, the ostler having instructions to say they were desired to sell it, only subject to this examiner’s opinion; he making sure, from his respectable practice, and the general estimation he is held in, that hardly any one could for an instant hesitate to accept such a proposition. No

one can object to veterinary surgeons selling horses ; they must occasionally have one to part with, as well as other professions and trades ; but then let them sell them as their own, and tell the truth ; the few pounds gained by such deception is, when found out, sure to occasion them a greater loss, as well as be an injury to their character. Let them not flatter themselves such tricks will not be found out, though for a short time deception may seem to prosper ; ultimately they and their tricks are sure to be exposed, more particularly where they are really dealing under these false colours, which, as in the instance just recorded, is the case. If they really do not wish to deceive with the horses they have for sale, they need not fear acknowledging them ; but we have always noticed where professionals were dealers, they were the worst descriptions to have any thing to do with ; so all will acknowledge who, to their sorrow, have had any dealings with them.

PATENT BITS.—*Continued.*

SPRING CHEEKS.

A bit, with a spring in the upper part of the cheek of it, was strongly recommended a few years back, for the wonders it performed ; the worst-handed horsemen were, by the use of this, to be upon a par with the best at once, and all mouths to be reduced to one level. The use of the spring, none but the inventor, whoever he might be, (for we either never heard, or have forgotten who he was,) and his gulls could comprehend ; he stated, it was to slip up and down the cheek as it was pulled by the reins : so far the explanation might be comprehended, and by a horseman would be considered a great nuisance, as it would occasion him to pull the reins a little harder while the spring was new, to make the apparatus act so as to feel the mouth, as he required. Yet so trifling would be the resistance, merely occasioning a deadened sensation of the mouth, that to a bad horseman would hardly be explained, and which he would never feel, so that to him it would not be the slightest inconvenience as regarded the actions of the horse ; and from his hand being too heavy to feel the slightest attention the spring would occasion in the pull, it would not be even to him of the slightest advantage, and those who used them, found the springs soon got out of repair. Like most of the other inventions spoken of, it had a few advantages and purchasers at the time, but that time has passed away ; for ultimately the opinion of the true horseman will prevail over those who professed to understand the animal, and yet have a hand so dead

as to like such a clumsy piece of machinery. This bit, although it claimed originality as one of its recommendations, was a clumsy alteration (not an improvement) of a bit we saw some years prior to these being used. The original, instead of having the ring slide up and down with the spring, was exposed to all changes of weather, splashed with mud and every other thing likely to injure it, besides the unsightliness of its appearance, it had a telescope cheek, so that no one could perceive but that it was a common bit, till they drew out the next joint. This was a neat and clever contrivance, and might have been made to answer the purpose better than the other for a bit, three inches above the mouth-piece and three below, might have an extra length of four and a-half inches, draw out this would then be a cheek longer than often required. This is merely mentioned, not recommended; unless you are determined upon using one of the two, and then the telescope is the best, really acting as far as mechanical skill can do, or at least an assistant to the horse's mouth, only being pulled with that severity which the handling it has been accustomed to makes requisite, it is the best yet devised; to some bad horsemen we recommend it, but then there are the following difficulties in the way: first, how are they to know to which of them this recommendation applies? secondly, how are they to know what length of cheek they ought to have to suit their hand and the horse's mouth, when the slide is in the tube? thirdly, how long the tube ought to draw out? fourthly, how nigh the post should be and its width, with the requisite length of the curb chain? Without a competent person to answer these questions, you had far better content yourself with ordinary bits; at page 25 some remarks are made, which may be here referred to as a guide to choosing bits; and we repeat, unless bits are chosen by well-qualified persons, that page will be their best guide.

HOW BITS ARE CHOSEN.

When a man has bought a horse, his usual way of buying bits, is to go to the saddler's to choose a bridle. Does he pay any attention to the horse's mouth? No! he is aware that the animal ought to have one, as a sort of door to pass hay and corn through to the stomach, or as a notch to place the bit between, to enable the rider to hold on by the bridle. This is all the attention he thinks the mouth requires, and that one bit will suit the purpose just as well as another; he therefore only chooses one to fit his eye, not the horse's, and, providing he

suits his fancy this way, whether the bit is mild or severe, that *is of no consequence, at least he thinks so.* One person, who has had a great many horses at different times, and who always keeps one or two, and holds himself forth to the world as almost the only one in it that knows any thing about them, is wild enough to maintain that a horse with a well-formed mouth (properly broke) will answer all bits alike, whether mild or severe; and after this *ignis fatuus* has he been running for several years, trying to break them to this nicety; repeated failures have not cured him of the idea, but it has almost sickened him of the trouble. Another *learned in horse matters* insists a horse's ears should always be forward; some remarks which were made a few pages back, upon running away, will show this is impossible. Where there is the least blood or spirit in a horse, his eyes will be constantly veering one moment on the rider, then his ears are back; he fancies he hears his master speak, one eye and one ear are directed towards him; a noise on one side, the eye and ear are there. Try what you will to prevent it, the eyes and ears will move together, and therefore will always be directed wherever the horse's attention is attracted. We have also mentioned, he sees with more difficulty direct in front of him, than in any other direction; it is therefore natural to suppose it is only now and then, when something is heard or to be seen in that direction, more engaging or alarming than usual, that he will put himself to the inconvenience required to enable him to do so; and the fact is proved by the horse only occasionally putting both ears in that direction, seldom more than one at a time being directed that way. When he places both ears forward, he looks more animated than when they are in any other direction; and this, we suppose, is the reason why it is by some supposed that is the way a horse ought to carry himself, and that all his attention being directed before him is a proof of satisfaction with his bits. So anxious have some been to see their horses carry themselves thus, that all kinds of stratagems have been used to make them, but it can only succeed for a short time. It is unnatural, therefore, if not painfully uncomfortable, and the horse soon resorts to the carriage more agreeable to himself. That the eyes and the ears move together, men who have not had the least claim to horsemanship have often remarked; and though they could not give the reason why they thus acted in concert, yet that they did so was sufficient for their purpose, and thus a variety of plans have been resorted to, to draw the horse's attention from one organ to the other: on this principle was the late

LORD HENNIKER'S

ear caps. He rode an old white horse, which started at particular objects; but being a favourite, he wished to retain his services a little longer, and observing, when he shied, that his ears were always directed to the object which alarmed him, his lordship had a pair of white rabbit skin ear-caps attached to his bridle, to prevent his ears turning so readily, with the intention of drawing his attention from that which frightened him to his ears, while he passed. With this view, the horse's ears were turned back, while they were put in their cases, that he might attempt to turn them when he met with that which he disliked, when, finding it difficult, his eyes would be directed to his ears, and thus move straight forward. That a horse would soon get used to this, when it would cease to act, is a natural conclusion: however, never having used them, we cannot say more than they did not answer the intended purpose by the admission of his lordship. Dealers have two ingenious plans to deceive with shying horses; the one is to hit them over the ears when they do so; this they soon get into the habit of attending to so much, that they are always on the watch for the hand, and the moment the dealer sees any thing likely to make his horse start, he raises his hand; this is a greater attraction to the horse than the other, he knowing the hand is a real evil, while the other may be only an imaginary one. This is, however, a plan only to be pursued by dealers, and that only for sale, as the horse soon gets obstinate, headstrong, and unruly, (vicious,) under such discipline. The other plan is much more humane, and which may be done by any owner of a startish horse with advantage. It is to turn him so much across the road while he passes that which would otherwise alarm him, that he cannot see it from half way, when you must passage him to three quarters, which is making an angle of about forty-five degrees with the opposite side of the road; this latter will be the oftenest required, and is the easiest for an indifferent horseman to accomplish.

SADDLES.

Some time back, a saddle was introduced with a spring tree, certainly very easy, and, thus far, an advantage to the rider, but the inventor could not have given a stronger proof that he was better qualified for making easy chairs than saddles; in fact, that he did not know the use of those seats it was his business to understand.

And what adds to the absurdity of the invention, it was recommended to those for whom it was the best calculated, viz., heavy men, as will be seen by our late obserivation on saddles. The spring was placed at the bar, or rather was the bar; the intention was, that it should give way at the thigh, so that you had little more than the width of the horse to hold in the fork. Were the riders only to be considered, we should recommend it as the best and most comfortable saddle ever yet made, but should add, a pad with the same portion of tree at the wither, and again at the cantle, would be quite as well, and save the extra expense. Considering, however, that the horse is to be considered as much as his master, we must say this has not answered the end intended, and, as a saddle, is totally useless for children and light weights; a pad, such as we have just mentioned, with the two portions of tree, will answer the purpose of the spring saddle, that of being as easy as the pad, not occasioning the rider to open his fork so wide; and its principal and only advantages over the pad are, first, it will not, with point straps, be more likely to turn round than the saddle, a fault to which the common pad is very subject; secondly, neither will it be so likely to hurt the back as the pad. For these reasons, we prefer it to the common pad; but the best plan is to have the horse suit the fork of the rider, then put upon his back a saddle that fits him, and you are prepared for whatever riding you may require, without inconvenience to either. Whether it was the price, or that at first starting these spring saddles were the cause of mischief, we have never been able to ascertain; but from some cause or other, certain it is, that a very few of them were ever sold. Were it not they were found to be injurious to the horses, we cannot conceive the reason of their scarcity, price seldom standing between the luxurious and ease; and they were certainly very pleasant to the rider; to be sure, a steel spring would not last long, exposed to the pummel constantly saturated with perspiration; therefore, this might assist to prevent their use: consider it, however, as we will, we strongly suspect the constant injury to the horses' backs, on whom they were used, was the prominent cause.

HALTERS.

To the fitting of these, little or no attention is paid; if they hold the horse, that is sufficient, and so long as they do this, however painful they may be from misfitting, the horse has not any chance of their being altered until they have done visible mischief.

Often have we seen the under jaw of the horse with all the skin worn off from feeding, occasioned by the nose band being too tight. Once we were asked to look at a horse which would not feed, but give him what you would, he neighed and pawed at the food, and turned it over with his nose, throwing it out of the manger, but would not take any of it into his mouth ; thinking, therefore, the horse ~~must~~ either be ill, or have had some trick played with him, he having only just been purchased, we were requested to look at him. On our way to the stable, a long account was given of carrots and other delicacies having been procured to no purpose, the horse seeming angry as soon as they were given, throwing them out of the manger, then stamping, and turning round, and neighing. A few side questions were put during the tale, as to whether there was any such thing as mad horses, implying, they suspected this one's acts were not quite sane. Arrived at the stable, we found the noseband so desperately tight, that the poor beast could not get his tongue between his teeth.

(To be continued.)

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

“B. W.” had better have his horse shod with leather, and keep his feet as moist as possible.

“G. Y.” will find an answer to his letter in the eleventh number.

“J. E.” Fourteen hands is either a galloway, a cob, or a small horse; either term being used for them occasionally. We do not think he could do any good by action for a false description.

The publisher of “The Horse” begs to inform the readers of this work generally, in consequence of the extensive sale of this work, No. 1 is again reprinted, and is, together with the other back numbers of this work, now ready for delivery at “The Horse” Office, No. 12, Wellington-street, Strand.

HALTERS—*Continued.*

Here was at once an explanation to the mystery. It appeared that the halter was originally used for a horse which was changed for a small-nosed pony; while this was using it, one of the back portions of the noseband was broken, they, therefore, had it closed up this piece deficient: now that a horse was substituted for the pony, the headstall, without alteration, was forced upon him; when even the circumstance of the horse's not being able to feed, did not occasion them to reflect upon the likely cause, and the difference in the size of the two animals. Where preserving the mane is of consequence, the halter should never be broader at the top of the head than the riding-bridle, neither should the scissors be used to cut a notch for it, as this is generally cut too wide, and, when once cut, is everlastingly requiring attention, or the stiff stumps look unsightly; therefore an inconvenience attends it. Now, letting it wear has not one bad quality, but possesses these advantages—the mark will be no wider than the bridle, and the horse always looks equally well without the loss of time occasioned to use the scissors, and which may be much better employed in unbuckling the halters, washing them clean with soap and water, and oiling them on the under side with sweet oil, either once a week, or whenever required.

THE MANE.

Pulling the mane, one would think, must have an immense number of advantages, or why should it be so universally practised. We have often considered this subject well, in order to find them out, and, after trials out of number, are as much at a loss as ever. Our observations, however, are at the service of our readers; and we hope the poor animal, whose cause we plead, may be saved, at all events, some little unnecessary pain; for such the motions of the animal evidently evince. Having, ourselves, always been admirers of long manes, and full flowing foretops, as giving a graceful boldness of countenance to the horse, we have watched, with peculiar interest, every alteration in the fashion of one of our darling features; and, when practicable, traced it to its source; and we have little doubt, but that the pulling of manes originated in the carelessness and slovenliness of grooms in combing them. Who, that ever had a long-tailed horse, and a groom not accustomed to these appendages, but what has

No. 18.

experienced great annoyance at the speedy decrease of this ornament : it is their headstrong clumsiness and want of judgment which is to blame. Force, downright force, is the only thing they think of using ; so having put the comb in at the top of the tail, down it must come to the bottom, breaking and tearing the hair till a free passage is effected ; breaking the comb is no hint to them, and thus it is with the mane—they are always breaking and tearing it away when long enough to entangle one with the other ; this makes it of a variety of lengths, when pulling is resorted to, on purpose to make it all alike. However, in our opinion, this does not improve the beauty of the animal ; and as for thinning the mane, another reason given, it does not effect one time in a thousand, but, on the contrary, makes the mane a nasty bushy clot of stumpy thick hair, which you cannot get to lay properly : let it grow a good length, and there is no trouble with it, laying always on the right side, as smooth as can be wished. To keep a mane and tail long, begin to comb the bottom first, and gradually get higher and higher, till you reach the top ; this is a quicker, neater, and more pleasant way to both groom and horse, neither will any hairs be broken or torn out by the roots. About eight or ten years back, the fashion was, to pull the manes off the horses' neck till they had less than a donkey. This originated in a leading man having a celebrated horse lose its mane by illness : many, not knowing the cause, but imagining it was from choice, had theirs pulled also, till, at last, it became a fashion of the day ; but, like all other fashions carried to the height of absurdity, did not last long. Some foolishly imagine that pulling the mane makes the horse look better bred than he really is : on the contrary, it makes him look worse ; and even were this the case, why pull the manes of those horses which only have beautiful thin long hair ? Dealers sometimes, to give this appearance to a thick-maned horse, have the hair shaved away on the under side, which becomes very troublesome to the purchaser when it begins to grow, as to keep it properly shaved requires attention every few days ; otherwise, the stumps grow through the long hairs, and turn them over to the wrong side.

FURTHER OBSERVATIONS UPON FOOD.

After so plainly stating that the quantity of the food as well as its quality, should be regulated by the size of the horse, and the work he is required to do, we are surprised at the numbers of letters requesting to know whether the “allowance given to soldiers' horses” were not

enough, or if too much for ordinary work ; others again complaining that their horses did not look equally well with the military ones on the same allowance, expressing great surprise at the circumstance. The want of reflection in the great number of horse proprietors, we have frequently had occasion to make observations upon ; and in this instance it is as conspicuous as in any other, or they would, prior to regulating the quantity, have considered the quantity and quality of the work (the speed) with which the horse or set of horses they took as their guides were made to perform theirs, and have compared it with the work their horses were made to do together, with the time they were out, and then they would have seen whether they were taking model, and not have been annoyed by seeing their horses losing condition, while they were attempting to effect a paltry saving, for such getting horses in condition always proves to be, this ever proving an expensive and tedious process, unless the horses can have rest, or only gentle work, during the time. Few horses belonging to individuals lead the easy life of those belonging to the different cavalry regiments. The weights they have to carry, it is true, are great ; but then, the hours in which they are employed are very few, and *the pace is never great*. How many days in the year do these horses perform any duty ? and when they do perform this duty, what is it ? the Horse Guards, and one of the two regiments of Life Guards, do duty alternately at the Horse Guards ; so that a troop of horse of one or other, marches from the Hyde-park or Regent's-park barracks daily to the Horse Guards, and those to whose turn it comes, have to stand four hours at a time under the little arches at the gate in Parliament-street. The number of privates now in this regiment we are not aware, but this duty, we feel convinced, does not fall upon each horse so often as once in four weeks ; they also have to attend levees, when, perhaps, they have to attend six hours ; but even including these, we doubt if they do more than the duty stated in one month. The duty of the other regiment, which remains at Windsor, we are not acquainted with, the number, as well as the duty, of these three regiments having been altered since the peace, but doubt either one of them having more to do than the other ; their routine being to change barracks once a-year, so that the regiment which leaves Windsor for the Regent's-park, is relieved by the regiment from Hyde-park, and these by those from the Regent's-park ; so that it is only once in three years they march from London, unless to attend a review, or exercise at Wormwood-scrubs, on the Harrow-road, not four miles

from town. It is true, these are the largest horses in the service, and that they are beautiful animals, and in fine condition,—a credit to all who have to do with them. Some few may be deemed too soft in their condition, but this, we apprehend, is where the horse has been rested from some unavoidable cause. When not on duty, or too unwell, these horses have each two hours exercise, daily, in the neighbourhood of their barracks, but never off the walk, unless in excessive cold weather, when they are allowed to trot a little, at a gentle pace. This, however, is their work ; and were most of the generality of proprietors to be told they were only to use their horses thus, their answer would most probably be, Had we not better keep them for ornament in a glass case ? The horses belonging to other regiments, not considered household troops, have not the same corn allowed them, nor have they the same duties to perform, but they have more frequently to change their quarters. Their marches, however, seldom exceed fifteen, and, with few exceptions, never more than twenty miles a day : the pace on these occasions is a walk, unless going to suppress riots or on other urgent business, when a trot of seven miles an hour is their greatest speed. The fastest duty any of the cavalry regiments have to perform is, in escorting His Majesty to and from Windsor, when ten or twelve miles is their utmost stretch, they always being relieved by others at the end of such stages, either stationed there previously for the purpose, or at some barracks, as those at Hounslow, for a half-way house to Windsor. The orderly's horse—but then he rarely has this duty, all the others taking it in turn before it comes round to him again—is the next hardest work, but then the pace is rarely great, and the distance named as seldom exceeded. This will also account for the difference in condition between the officers' horses and the privates, although the officers allow theirs *out of their own pockets* more food than the regimental allowance, being well aware that the work they oblige theirs to perform is much harder than the mere duty required by the profession, and that food must be proportioned to exertion. Carriage-horses, and those of the three regiments of Guards, are about the same size ; their food may, therefore, be alike, providing you will be content with only walking the horses two hours per day, and only giving the same exercise ; but where you wish to go faster or further, you must give food accordingly. Horses under this size will require less ; and, at fourteen hands high, they will keep themselves in good condition with ordinary work on the same food which the larger horses require to keep them in condition when idle. The form of the horse

also makes a great difference, some of the smaller ones requiring the same food as the large ones to keep them in condition; others cannot be kept in condition at all, if at work. Neither are the large ones exempt from this difference; but it will be found there are horses of a particular make, of all sizes, which will get fat upon what others will starve; this difference horsemen are well aware of, and instantly perceive the thrifty horse, he has the sign of it all over him: his general shape and countenance point him out as a profitable animal, whether he is in or out of condition at the time. Economy, but not parsimony, is at all times laudable; but, where there are many horses, this becomes a more weighty consideration; with this view we will mention a plan which we have adopted many months with success. It had for many years been settled in our minds as well by observation and experience, that stinting horses in their water was as absurd as cruel, and we therefore allowed our horses all the water they required, (see our former observations on Food and Water,) and we found they drank according to their work, and that the quantity, as might naturally be supposed, was greatest with the most work, and least when standing still. How was it then that the stupid custom originated of giving horses less and less water, as their journeys were greater and greater, and allowing more when the horse had less to do? the reason given is, that it purges him. This is true, where the work has been much more than common, and, consequently, the water. But what is there in this purging, we would ask, that is so much to be dreaded? We maintain, not any thing; on the contrary, that it keeps off fever, and, very frequently, lameness. In fact, we maintain that very many of the lamenesses with which horses are afflicted, arise from want of water alone; this stinting keeping a slow fever about the horse, from a disordered stomach, brought on by thirst, which settles in the feet. It is now well known that a disordered stomach will produce inflammation of the feet, and that a dose of physic will frequently remove a lameness on its first appearance, and that neglecting to loosen the bowels is frequently the cause of the unsoundness becoming permanent. Reflecting upon all this, and that dry food is not natural to the horse, we often contemplated trying soaking their oats in water; but, for many years was deterred from putting the plan into execution, by those to whom we mentioned it, pointing out sundry imaginary evils, and some asserting they had known it tried and failed.

Never mind what people who pretend to horse knowledge assert, for they always wish to appear better informed than any one else

on the subject ; and they know every thing, and have seen every thing done ; at least so we reasoned with ourselves : and then began to press them as to the how, the when, and the where they had seen what they pretended, till convinced the plan we suggested had not been tried, or not tried properly ; we therefore determined to put it into practice, particularly as our horses were all looking worse at the time than we liked to see them. We therefore procured a tub ; into this we had corn put, overnight, with as much water as saturated it. From the groom and helpers we had much opposition ; they insisting the horses would get out of condition and soft ; but by perseverance and closely superintending the feeding, we got them to give the horses one-half of this, mixed with one-half of dry oats. This was only given a very short time, when their improvement was so great, that prejudiced as the groom was at the trial against such food, he could not help observing how much better they looked, and at once acceded, on the original intention being again proposed of giving all the oats thus soaked. A sufficient quantity was put into the tub in the morning to give the horses at night, and the daily allowance was put into the tub overnight to be given at the usual hours of feeding.

With this food we did not find the horses more relaxed in the bowels than with other food. They got into condition with the same quantity of food, while performing the same work, as that with which they before lost their condition ; and allowing them, as they had always been before, all the water they would drink, the grooms assured us, and we have ourselves seen it, that those horses which before drank a pail and a half of water in the morning, would frequently not drink three quarts ; and that the average of the stables was, in the morning, about a pail and a half to seven horses, twice in the day, about the same at night. Such horses as had been from home all day, and at hard work, without being attended to in strange stables, would seldom drink more than a pail ; while those which had been at work with the usual home attention only drank half a pail. For cart horses there are many who allow that wet food is good ; but for nags there is a universal prejudice against it. The horses now mentioned were however nags, and that too doing as severe work as usually falls to the lot of horses of their class ; and so convinced are we of the advantage of oats thus soaked, that we never use others when it can be avoided. At first, the horses do not like them so well ; but after being used to them only for a very few days, they will leave dry oats for wet ones. One convincing proof that wet ones must be best is, you

hardly ever see them void any whole oats—a frequent occurrence when dry. Another reason why they are best is, when thus soaked they are so swollen as to be nearly out of their skins, therefore much easier masticated and digested, the first process, that of swelling the food, being already performed for the stomach. One more reason we will give for preferring wet food, and for considering that it is proper. Grass, the natural food of the horse, is succulent; the more succulent the grass, the larger and fatter does the horse grow. This is proved by the Flemish horses; or, to come nearer home, look at those bred in low marshy countries, which are our dray horses: this proves that wet victuals must be best for them. With the grass he will scour upon being worked, we anticipate, will be your objection. But if he had wet oats, does he not have dry hay? and this will be found a fully sufficient corrector.

With broken-winded horses it is a common practice to wet all their food, to enable them to breathe better, and prevent their requiring so much water, and yet they do not scour more than other horses, nor does the wet food injure them in any way; on the contrary, it is a well-known fact, that they are much better for it; then how the general supposition that feeding sound horses in the same way, that being the nearest which we can bring their artificial food to nature, has arisen, is difficult to conceive, unless it is allowed there is a little extra trouble occasioned by measuring the corn into the tub, and putting water to it; and if the stablemen are too lazy for this, then is the cause at once discovered. To state, however, our experience of the fact, is better than hunting after obscure reasons. Our horses got fat, as before stated, on the same food, wetted in the manner described, doing the same work, and no horses could be in better wind, or have their flesh firmer, sweat less, or endure more fatigue; neither had we any horse become permanently lame in our service, but have generally been so fortunate as to recover those which we have bought with such a defect. Those who know us can attest these facts; but as we have not attached our original name to the work, we do not see any reason for at present altering our plan.

But let those who doubt the advantages of wet oats try them impartially, beginning by mixing half of the soaked with as many dry for a few days, and then give all wet, and we shall be much surprised if they do not always continue them after. The good effects of this food upon the coat has been mentioned in the other articles upon food. Wet food will also be found a great assistant in curing coughs, and save the

poor animal from the pain occasioned by coughing so frequently, as it is much more seldom that they make the effort while the lings are kept moist, which wet food assists in effecting, as proved in broken wind and chronic coughs, while the dry food only serves to irritate and make them worse.

OSTLERS.

On the unfitness of many of these for the situation they hold, we have before had occasion to remark; but an occurrence which took place within this fortnight, proved they were, if possible, more ignorant of their business than we before imagined. A gentleman, driving a lady in his chaise, who accompanied us to Blackwall, put up at an inn in the neighbourhood. Upon returning for the horse, the ostler, with a woeful length of countenance met us, as we approached the house, exclaiming loud enough to be heard at a considerable distance, "You will never be able to get your horse home again, Sir?" "What is the matter?" "Oh, Sir, he is dreadful bad!" Off we went to the stable, he relating his having gone to his master, who would have sent for the doctor, only that he was in hopes the owner of the horse would be back again presently, and act for himself. Arrived at the stable, the horse seemed to be lying very comfortably. The ostler was then questioned as to the symptoms which had occasioned the alarm. "He had no sooner eat his corn, Sir, than down he laid himself, then rolled over, got up, *looked in the rack, then put his head down to the ground, smelt about*, after which he laid down again, and I do not believe he has stood up five minutes at a time ever since." "Did you give him any hay?" "No, Sir." "Any more corn than what was ordered when he came in?" "No, Sir, he has not had any thing else." The poor brute had therefore been fasting some hours, during which time, as he was a little feverish in his feet, he thought it better to lay down and rest, to prevent the pressure his feet received when standing. That any man, professing to be an ostler, should be alarmed, merely because a horse looked for victuals, and not finding any, thought proper to place himself in the easiest position he could assume! Where could such a horse attendant come from? Had he ever seen a horse lie down before? are questions we wish we had put to him at the time. Our friend was much alarmed, and not a little mortified, as he had been praising the horse up to the skies, as all that was good and perfect, to the lady; but the ostler's oration so completely cut him up, he vowed he would sell the horse immediately, not to render himself liable to such remarks again.

BEARING REINS.

The use and origin of this once indispensable portion of the harness has to us been an interesting inquiry. That the ancients did not use them, is evident by their sculpture and paintings, the horses of all their processions being without any such appendage; neither have we been able to ascertain the time when they first came into use, but that they are more common in this country than any other is well known. It is therefore probable this country gave rise to them, and that with our dealers they originated; for the following reasons have led us to conclude it was a dealer's invention,—any thing which they put about their horses is considered by the herd of horsemen must have some use in it. So far they are right, but the use may be very different from that which they imagine; however, they learn that it is applied for something which is its most prominent feature; the hidden ones the dealer keeps to himself. To use any thing immediately on its introduction, particularly if introduced by one whom they conclude must know a horse, one set of horsemen consider particularly knowing; and as this is the character they wish to assume, it is not likely they would let pass such a conspicuous portion of the horse's trappings. The reason given by the dealer for using this rein, would be to prevent the horses *bearing* so much in hand, or to *learn* him, being young in harness, to carry his head high; though there might be some truth in these, there are other and more important reasons for their using them. But before proceeding to that we will give their origin. Dealers are an observant class of men, and where gain is in view, no persons are more quick-sighted. The position, therefore, which horses put themselves in when trotting in a field at play, or when alarmed at a noise, being the most advantageous in which they can possibly be shown, the dealers would not allow them to waste so much "sweetness on the desert air;" but as buyers want to see them closer than they can do in the paddock, as rarely will they buy without seeing them at work; interest, therefore, told them some artificial means must be adopted to bring them into the same position. This they soon found might be partly accomplished when, being run in hand, by making a noise with a stick in the dealer's hat, or with the mouth,—any noise to which they are not accustomed,—answers the purpose of putting them something in this position; when riding, the secret use of the spur, together with the bit, can partly effect this; but in driving, the frightening the horse would hardly do here by a noise: besides which, he would very soon get used to it, when he would go as

before in spite of the noise; neither can the whip be used without being seen, and too great an application of this would spoil the sale of the horse. These things considered, they taught their horses they were to go up to the bit attached to the bearing rein, when their heads were raised as much as possible: this also had the advantage of making the horse look larger, of raising his crest, and lowering the back a little, so as to make him appear better shaped, shorter and rounder, with a fine fall in the back, as if made to carry his saddle well, and just what a painter delights in; he appears composed of curves, and altogether more compact. Another, and a decided advantage to dealers, one of the hidden causes which it possessed for their using them, was groggy horses, and those a little tender before cannot show this defect, when their heads are borne up to a cruel degree of tightness, leaning on the bit, together with the pain occasioned by the forced position being greater than that produced by the horse's infirmities, prevents the poor fellow from showing them while thus tortured. This torturing tight bearing-up also makes the horse step higher, frequently a desideratum with the dealer. The question having been put to us when making these observations before, "Why then use them with such horses as do not require them?" we will answer it, as probably our readers may put the question to themselves, and answer it their own way, which may be erroneous. First, there are few horses to which one or other of their reasons will not apply, and were there ninety-nine out of the hundred, so long as this torture is suffered to exist, still they must put all the rest in purgatory to sell this one, as no one would give a remunerating price for a horse with such a conspicuous advertisement that he was faulty. We have called this excessive bearing-up the torture, not knowing any other way to express our ideas of the way this rein is intended to be used on lame horses. The head is at once borne up to what is supposed the required degree of tightness; he is then made to move on; if still lame, take up another and another hole, till tortured to such excess that this being made the greater pain, overcomes the smaller, and the poor beast cannot think of his crippled limbs and feet, he may therefore be imagined to have confessed himself sound, in dread of further punishment, as he now goes sufficiently so to deceive not only ordinary purchasers, but many who have the reputation of being particularly knowing in horse flesh. Another reason for the bearing rein we had almost left out; it is, however, about the best which can be given for its use, and is, that it assists greatly in preventing a horse kicking, where the driver is not master of his business; for

where the head cannot be got down, the horse has not half the power with his heels which he otherwise could exert. In breaking horses to harness, therefore, with some persons they may be of use, but then they must not be too tight, or they teach the horse to jib or lie down; besides, a loose bearing rein is a sufficient check to a horse young in harness when he attempts to kick.

Bearing reins the writer of this article always had a great dislike to, and probably he was the first who drove without them in this country for many years. With him, however, it was an original idea when a boy, long before he had noticed old paintings or sculpture; though before he can recollect his father had a horse which would lie down if the bearing rein was hooked, but as driving without one was at that time too conspicuous, he, therefore, to steer between the two evils, made a sort of compromise with both the fashion and his convenience, and had one made so that it fixed to his driving reins instead of the usual hook; thus he could give the horse his head when required, as if he had no such rein, all the while retaining the appearance of it. The writer of this used to drive either with one so loose as not to prevent the horse putting his head where he pleased, or more commonly without any; and never will he forget the pleasure with which he heard Professor Coleman most ably condemn them as the cause of rearing in horses. Whether it was because the Professor was the first whom he had ever heard agree with him on the subject, indeed, the only one who did not condemn it as bad and looking ugly; usually finishing by saying one day he would have a horse fall down with him, and then he would see the folly of the conceit; so many years now has he tried it without one mishap, that neither one or two horses falling would persuade him it was wrong. Open to conviction, however, we grant in some cases which we shall name they have their advantages, but their use has been, and still is, too general. The Professor hoped in twenty years from the time we heard him condemn bearing reins, that such a rein would be so scarce that no one should know the meaning of the term when it was made use of. The twenty years are passing quickly away, while the rein holds its place with a tenacious grasp. Is this on account of the greater portion of the harness horses being lame? or is it *because man is a bigot to old customs?* With the uneducated this, we know full well, is the case; but why do not *the more enlightened attend to the voice of humanity, and lay by a cruel and useless appendage*, for such it is to all but lame and leg weary horses? and we hope the day is not so far distant as their tardy

removal would indicate, when they will be considered as a mark of these defects. To the crippled and leg-weary horse, where the head is not tightly borne up, they are an assistance to the poor beast ; allowing him the free use of what horsemen call his fifth leg, letting him hang as heavy as he pleases on the bit, which relieves his legs very much ; but if tight, they are even here a great cruelty, and to all other horses they are a great inconvenience, use them as you will. For the maimed and the halt to rest upon the bridoon bit should merely be a straight piece of steel, without any joint in the mouth-piece, like a cart bit : heavy players will be an advantage. At each end should be a ring to take the rein, which ought not to be too tight ; and to prevent this bit falling out of his mouth when he raises his head so high as to make the rein loose, pass the nose band through the billets of the rein. Never put the bearing rein on the driving bit, whether this be curb or snaffle, as it makes the mouth always feel dead to the hand ; besides which, when the horse hangs upon it, the sides or cheeks of the bridle get bowed up, so that he sees behind the winkers ; or should the bridle be so tight as to prevent this, it is uncomfortable to the horse. A horse seeing that he is in harness and what is behind him, we have not any objection to, as there is not the least danger to be apprehended when a horse really sees what he has to do ; but a partial glimpse, such as that afforded behind the winker, is running a useless risk, as many accidents have proved. That there is no danger in letting the horse have a full view of what is behind him, we have amply proved, and in its place shall enter more fully into particulars.

In drawing weights, and up hill, the bearing rein is decidedly a great inconvenience. It prevents the horse from using his powers to the greatest advantage ; this must be evident to any one who has ever seen a horse go up hill, when left to put himself in the form which he finds most convenient, even when he is without a load ; but in drawing a load, if left to himself, this is still more evident, and we should remember there is no theory about a horse ; all he does, and every attitude, is gained from practical experience : we should, therefore, pay due deference to all he shows us, and where we cannot fully prove that he is wrong, (which will rarely be the case,) we ought to conclude practice is better than theory, and, therefore, we have no right to interfere. Giving a horse a heavy load to draw, and fixing his head up with a bearing rein, is similar to giving a man a heavy weight to row, and taking away his foot-board. A man exerts his strength to the

greatest advantage, in rowing, when he has the foot-board ; take this away, and he is stronger in many other positions. The horse, without a bearing rein, is as capable of exerting his strength, but, with this appendage, his strength is reduced to, comparatively, nothing : this we have frequently tried, and found that a load which they could not move with the head borne up in the way they were in the habit of having it, they drew, without difficulty, with the rein thrown off the hames, so as to give them perfect liberty. In travelling, being without a bearing rein is a great convenience and saver of trouble : the horse has but one bit, and, therefore, can eat at any time with it in his mouth ; you can let him drink, also, without having to do and undo this rein ; to ascend hills, the driver is also always ready to give the horse his head at any time, a relief the horse occasionally requires.

ROARERS.

To this forced and painful position, Professor Coleman ascribes the inflammation of the windpipe, which occasions that peculiar noise, termed roaring ; and mentions a well-authenticated fact, in proof of his argument, that only the larger horses are subject to this disease, and that you never find a carriage horse that is sixteen hands high, or upwards, who is not a roarer after eight years old. And you never find a roarer but what has been in harness, unless accidentally so, from a piece of chaff, or ball of indissoluble materials, improperly administered, having got into the windpipe ; for this reason, antimony, sulphur, and all powders of that class, should only be given in mashes, or in damped corn.

Dealers, also, like bearing reins, as they assist in covering the horse more about the fore-quarters. One of their greatest studies is, the more covering, the more are their defects hid ; this is particularly the case with large heads, and the more effectual covering to this, particularly where the head is badly set on, is afforded by the worst of bridoon reins, that called the gag, which is by far the greatest torturer. No one can like to see horses carry themselves properly, that is, elegantly and gracefully, more than ourselves ; but where this cannot be effected without torture, let those horses go to the drudgery for which horses are required, and where they will be as serviceable as those which are more handsome and showy, and where it will not be painful to carry themselves as required. These arts only hide their defects from those who are not horsemen, and then, generally, only until they

get out of the dealer's hands, when the want of the tact possessed by the seller, together with the work, makes them show all their deformities. Where you only keep one horse, or where your horses get worked, do not fancy they are to preserve the beautiful carriage and bearing of either the menage or the dealer's horse ; with work, this is impossible. The used horse will show it in his gait, so will the horse not sufficiently well fed. This has before been shown in other parts of this work, for which see *Equipages generally—On Tiring Horses—* and other parts of this work.

NOT THE BLIND BARD,

The author of "Paradise Lost," but a once celebrated horse-dealer, of whom several tales are told, equally disreputable, impudent, daring, and almost bordering on the marvellous, but amongst the best-authenticated is the following, which we give, it being connected with the subjects on which we have just been treating, —bearing reins and roaring. A gentleman who had just returned from India, wishing, as most nabobs do on their return home, to astonish the natives of his mother country by the splendour of his equipage, ordered this dealer to procure him four carriage horses of unusual size. They were sent home, and an enormous sum paid for them. Soon after, the purchaser sent for the dealer, who waited upon him, when he was informed the coachman said one of the horses was a roarer. The dealer treated the idea with ridicule, and requested the gentleman to accompany him to the stable. Arrived there, he asked the coachman, how he knew a roarer ? The coachman took a stick in one hand, and the halter in the other, when, giving the usual flourish, the horse made the noise termed roaring. There, says the dealer, do you call that roaring ? Lend me the stick, if you call that roaring, I will be bound every horse in the stable is a roarer. He then proceeded to serve them all in the same way, one after the other, when each one making the same noise, both master and groom felt satisfied they laboured under a mistake for some time, till the noise got so intolerable when at work in the carriage, that they sent them to be examined, when the examiner pronounced that they were all roarers, and must have been so for more than six months prior to the last sale.

HOT FEET.

For strong hoofs, we have mentioned, in an earlier portion of the

work, that water is the best stopping which can be applied for hot or feverish feet, the same applied in the way recommended under the head of *Stopping for Horses' Feet*. After travelling, above all other times, let this be attended to, as well as whenever the feet seem a trifle warmer than usual. This we mention, as there are many who do not consider the feet are disordered until they feel hot to the hand; this is, however, a great mistake, as disease must have gone on some time before it could arrive at this height of inflammation; and as you can rarely do harm by pursuing this treatment, you had better resort to it often, rather than neglect to resort to the wet flannels when required.

Where you can stand over the horse, or be close by him for one or two hours at the time, to have a tub, which will hold water as high as his knees, with some pieces of wood, the full depth of the rim of this tub, nailed across, the reverse way to which those at the bottom are placed; this will prevent the weight of the horse pressing the bottom out. Let him stand in this, full of water; you will find this an excellent remedy for hot feet and legs: at first, you will find some trouble in getting a horse to stand in the tub, but this is soon got over, particularly if you feed him as soon as his feet are in. At one time, we were greater advocates for this tub soaking than we now are; not but that the horse soon learns that keeping his feet in the water relieves him, and, therefore, will put them in of himself, as we have often seen, and used to leave a tub, night and day, in the stall, with any horse with feverish feet, that he might stand in it as he pleased. We found, however, to our disappointment, that the feet did not expand so fast by this method, as the wet cloths. Some reason there must be for this; to discover this was the difficulty: but we soon found the cause; the horse used to stand with his toe on the bottom, and the heels of his shoe against the side, thus preventing one of the most desirable portions of the treatment,—pressure; if, therefore, the groom can prevent his standing any way but flat on the bottom, and take him out, either to exercise, or for the work he is required, immediately afterwards, this is a good plan, as his feet are sure to be sufficiently soft to allow the necessary expansion. Should the horse have been performing any extraordinary day's work, whether we consider speed or distance, let his feet be placed in such a tub of warm water for a couple of hours; there is not any thing so good for preventing stiffness or after consequences, as this treatment: in hot weather, when the roads are hot and dry, this is a great relief.

(*To be continued.*)

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Being inundated with letters respecting Chanters, and all containing the same questions, in different forms, to save room, we answer by informing them, that in one of our former numbers they will find an effectual plan to save themselves from being plundered in the way they complain they have been.

R. F.—We are quite aware that this work has excited the ire of the Chanters, and that they hold out threats of shooting us, &c.; we are also aware that they are still reaping a rich harvest by their nefarious practices. To put them down in one season, even had this work a much more extended sale than any work ever yet had, would be impossible. But from its large and increasing sale, we have no doubt but their trade will diminish much more rapidly than it has hitherto, notwithstanding their loud complaints of our “trying to prevent GENTLEMEN getting an HONEST *livelihood*.”

C. C. can send the bit mentioned to the office where this work is published, when our opinion shall be given.

W. A. need not mind the horse being more than six for work, provided he is not too old. If W. A. looks at our former Numbers, which ~~he says~~ he has by him, he will find our opinion is given at some length.

T. D. asks too much by calling on us to give the names of the various Chanters.

B. K. is right, the man he has made his escape from is a Chanter.

ERRATA IN 17TH NUMBER.

The Editor being out of town, apologizes for the following Errata, which the reader will kindly correct :

PAGE.	LINE.
262	16 for “tail of” read <i>tail half of</i> .
265	23 for “shows” read <i>allows</i> .
267	30 for “slightest attention” read <i>slight alteration</i> .
267	33 for “advantages” read <i>admires</i> .
268	5 for “exposed” read <i>exposed</i> .
268	23 for “how nigh the post” read <i>how high the port</i> .
271	1 for “best” rend <i>least</i> .
271	30 for “pummel” read <i>pannel</i> .

Mind that the water is only warm ; remember that water which appears only moderately hot to *your hand*, is painfully so to their legs ; you will therefore find it better to begin with water with only the chill off, and increase the heat by pouring warmer and warmer water to the first till by degrees he will bear a considerable heat ; but as soon as he shows the application is arriving at an uncomfortable temperature, desist till that already in the tub is cooler, then add more. When the legs are taken out of the water, you cannot too quickly put on flannel bandages just taken out of water full as warm as that his legs were in, and manage to keep his feet wet until he has his next exercise, or if put into a loose box that may answer the purpose ; this we consider a better plan than the next, but if dry bandages are to be put on, or the horse's legs are to be left without any, then set a boy to each leg to rub them perfectly dry, and until they have done smoking. Were this treatment more commonly pursued with horses, they would remain sound much longer than they do under their present management. Although warm water is recommended on these uncommon occasions, for general use we do not consider it so good as cold for the hoofs. From experience we know that warmth tends to contract the horn, cold expands it, and on one or two occasions where the hoofs have evidently been expanding at the top with cold water, on our putting them into warm, and suffering the horse to stand as he liked afterwards, they have as decidedly contracted ; it is more for the sake of the tendons and the immediate injury that the feet may have received that we recommend the warm water immediately after such exertion, as well as that the general health of the horse may not suffer from being too suddenly plunged into cold water while in this stage of fever from exertion.

CLEANING HORSES.

To the observations made in an early Number, upon cleansing, from the remarks of our kind correspondent, "Stable Boy," we certainly did intend long ago to add a few words on that barbarous and disgraceful, lazy, and cruel custom of cleaning horses with a birch-broom, and that, too frequently, worn to a stump : in the article headed, Cleaning Horses, we have been so severe on what is mild cleaning compared to this, that our readers, on referring to that, will not be surprised to find we consider this so barbarous and unfeeling an infliction, that those who can look coolly on with apathy, and see the poor brutes thus wantonly tortured ; however we will use our corre-

No. 19.

spondent's ("Stable Boy") words, "it is disgusting to any man of right feeling, to see how the animal will wince under the operation, and to witness the many whacks he receives for not enduring the torture with patience ; we have sometimes been tempted to wish that the doctrine of transmigration might be true, in order that such fellows and *their teachers* might hereafter receive their proper reward." Would to heaven that all stable boys were of this opinion, and we should soon find the man a different being, and the torture, in its variety of shapes, would soon be discarded from the stable, and the horse made to last much longer ; his comforts would be more attended to, and, therefore, he would be more happy. On referring to the former article on this subject, reflect, that what we say of cleaning the horse there, does not alter because the horse happens to run in a public conveyance : many of them have once been the pride, the pet of a kind indulgent master, and clothed, cleaned, and fed in the softest and most luxurious style that falls to the lot of horses ; and now that he is old, crippled, and worn out, at a time of life when ease and comfort are most required, he is probably harder worked, and certainly more hardly and cruelly used than at any former period.

CHANGE OF FEELING TOWARDS HORSES.

Often have we wondered at and pondered on the change of feelings at different times shown by the same person towards his horse. So long as he is useful, gay, and beautiful, the admiration of every one, no money can induce the owner to part with his pet, who says he will keep him till he dies ; the poor beast becomes old and crippled in his service, is not any longer of any use to him, neither has he done any thing to offend except that of having come into the world with the usual frailty of all sublunary things, and his years have at last become too heavy for him to carry them with his former sprightliness. His master's promise, made in a fit of pride, at being possessed of a beast wished for and prized by others, and which he mistook for love to the animal, is disregarded or forgotten, and he is sold for some paltry sum to drag out the remainder of his days in pain and wretchedness. We have known men, rolling in affluence, sell an old favourite after years of hard service for such trifling sums as would not buy their household one dinner. How any one can run the risk of meeting their old favourites in the drudgery which they get into for such paltry sums is to us a mystery, yet do we hourly see the once-proud pets of luxurious-

ness toiling in those hells to horses, street cabriolets and omnibuses ; compared to these, the miserable existence of a hackney-coach or stage-coach horse is a perfect heaven. Frequently has the question been put to us, Whether there is such an appointment as hackney-coach inspectors—and if so, how we think he performs his duty : our reply is, Public conveyances of any kind we ride in as little as most persons, so that there may be coach inspectors ; but the general appearance of the horses justify our saying, if there is any one employed to inspect the efficiency of these poor tortured animals, whoever that person or persons may be, they are either grossly ignorant of their duty, or they have mistaken the place for a sinecure. But still more are we puzzled to account for that sordid feeling which will cause any man (much more the rich), when a horse is condemned for the slaughterer, to allow the horse to be dragged away in misery, merely because he can get a few more paltry shillings to allow him to be taken away alive, even though he feels morally certain that the horse will be slaughtered when he gets to his new home ; because, independent of the pain he has to endure in walking there, he may stand and starve some days before he is required, and, if he is capable of doing any work, rely on it he is made to do all he can. Those horse-masters, who can reconcile their consciences to give an animal they have once prized, if they had not kinder feelings towards it, unnecessary pain for the sake of the most trifling gain, expect more feeling than they themselves possess from the last man from whom they ought to expect it—the horse-butcher!! Yes, to the knacker they look for more feeling than they themselves possess ; look to a man who lives by the misery of these animals, whose sole profit arises from their misfortunes, to have that feeling for them, which, once having been a darling favourite, years of friendship and of toil have not been able to wring from their old master.

If you ever had a kind feeling for your horse, nay, if you have any feeling, and death is his doom, let the blow be struck upon your own premises ; and let not any mistaken feeling prevent your seeing the horse after he is dead, but before he is taken away : for it was the practice since we have known the knackers'-yards, *spite of Acts of Parliament*, to let out horses to go to fights, or to hawk goods about, and, in fact, for whatever purpose they could, so little as one shilling and eighteen-pence a day has been a sufficient inducement. Can you expect they will not get this whenever and wherever they can, from a horse which they have only bought as an immediate source of profit, never having known him before, or had occasion to care for him in any other way ? Is it reasonable in you, who preferred a few shillings

to having his misery put an end to at once, to expect a stranger to him, with only profit to him for his guide in purchases, to make that sacrifice which you, with all these inducements and boasted fine feeling, cannot be prevailed upon to do? You can rail at the other for want of feeling and humanity, you are shocked to see such horses about the streets as are continually to be met with, and yet you will not contribute your mite towards saving the feelings of others.—“ You are mistaken,” says one of these gentlemen, who carry their feelings in their pocket, “ I am not so easily duped, I send my servant to bring home one of the horse’s feet with him.” We answer, so you may, and we have seen the scene (we were going to call it farce, but it is too serious for that) of “ like master like man,” performed to the letter, feet being very much alike; by a bribe, the intended bearer of this foot security has been got out of the slaughter-house, while a more worthless horse’s foot has supplied the place of the intended one, and the poor horse, whose foot was supposed to be buried in the dunghill, is slaving in the worst of drudgery.* When old favourites are sent to be slaughtered, not because they were too infirm to work, but to prevent their ever getting into bad hands, either from their late owner having left such directions in his will, or they are not dashing enough for the present proprietor, or from one or other of those numerous causes for which old favourites, not past their work, are sent to such places, this plan of having home a foot as security is common, and in nearly every instance, where it is worth the knackers’ while, is another horse’s foot substituted. When any of the late king’s horses went to be slaughtered, one of the grooms had to attend, see him killed, and take back the foot as security, therefore no one can doubt but they were killed; who dare therefore doubt but that the reputed horse which drew a dray at Stratford, as well as many others, were only the ghosts

* We have known horses, hired at these yards for the small sums named, made to perform incredible distances, even when moving in such misery that every step threatened to be their last. Once we saw a fine six-year-old horse, for which several hundred guineas had been refused by his owner, let out to a man who carried as many lumps of live lumber as he could stow away in his cart to different fights; the poor brute was forced down to the fight, a distance of nearly fifty miles and back again, with six or eight brutes in the cart on the same day. What was the crime of which he had been guilty? That his master took so little care of what he must have once prized for a paltry few shillings, could not be of real consequence to a master who had refused hundreds for the horse—Reader, he had unfortunately become contaminated with that scourge of horses, the glanders!! Who would take any trouble about a horse thus afflicted? No, let him go, it is a vexatious business, and therefore the best way to prevent the owner suffering such an annoyance again is, to let the disease be as widely disseminated as possible, is what we should imagine was the reasoning of those guilty of such want of feeling and absurdity.

of the horses which once drew majesty ; yet, for these spirits were often paid large sums of money.

DECEPTIVE APPEARANCES OF TEETH.

(Continued from page 59.)

Thus we have shown that a young horse's teeth may be of much greater length than they commonly are in horses of the same age ; this is where the teeth are harder than usual, and we doubt whether the absurd and cruel operation of burning out the *lampas*, is not often the cause of the teeth appearing longer at an earlier age than they otherwise would, the length of the teeth not being occasioned by the teeth growing, but the gums shrivelling from them, leaving the bottom much smaller and narrower than the top.

Other horses have their teeth so soft that they wear away before the mark has left ; and we have frequently seen five-year-old mouths with the smallest mark possible in the corner teeth, and none on any of the others. Cleaning horses where they can take hold of any thing hard, rough, or injurious to the teeth, will also have the effect of making great alterations in the appearance of the horse's age ; for this reason, nothing can be worse than a brick wall for a horse to rub them against, a common practice, although frequently we have seen a horse with his teeth very much worn from this cause. To remedy this, see the article headed, *To Prevent Crib-biting*. Should the stable be too dark, or any objection be made to cleaning the horses in it, where practicable, erect two posts in the yard, and tie the horses between them, with a rein to each pillar attached to a strong halter, made cart horse fashion, (we think they are called Dutch halters,) so that he cannot either break it and get loose, or get to bite any thing ; or a halter made the same as those used for race horses, called Newmarket, only much stronger, will be far better than the common one. Sometimes, though rarely, horses have two rows of teeth.

FORD'S PATENT BIT.

This is another pretender to humanity, which purpose it cannot effect, being excessively severe. The inventor also asserts that it will prevent the horse rearing, and the variety of ills we have had so frequently to recapitulate. Instead of repeating them as before, we will at once see how it effects these purposes. In this bit there are two

mouth-pieces like the tongue nipper before mentioned, but not intended for the same absurd purpose ; between these is a joint, and in the lower mouth-piece is a ring, which takes out to place another of required dimensions, which fixes into it with a screw. This, therefore, is a part acting upon the lower and most tender part of the mouth ; the joint in the middle is intended to let this part punish the more freely. The humanity part is beyond our comprehension—the punishing we understand perfectly ; and how two such opposites can be blended in one so as to answer by the same action and the same rein, we shall not wait to inquire. Having tried the bit, (we like practice better than theory,) we must say for any but horsemen it is a very dangerous bit, and cruel to the horse, and that the horsemen would prefer the original reverse bit port, which is an older and better invention than this, which can only claim originality in its faults, the joint in the middle of the cheek, and the situation of the curb ; but here the one fault is consequent upon the other. The horseman sometimes, but rarely, uses a reverse port, that is, laying down the tongue, instead of being, as is usually the case, turned up towards the horse's ears. This bit, however, he only uses on particular occasions, such as when he has a horse which has contracted a bad habit of throwing up his head, or to make a straight-necked horse arch it a little ; but he will not be guilty of the extreme cruelty for which these bits are intended of forcing in the nose of a cock-throttled horse (one without any joint at the setting on of the head to the neck), or making a decided ewe-necked horse arch his as much, as by cruel punishment he may be forced to do ; luckily, too, we rarely see horses of this make now to induce this cruelty.

MARTINGALES.

The observations which have been made upon the bit last mentioned, induces me to make a few remarks on martingales, they being intended to answer the purpose of this bit, and are much more humane in their action.

The ring martingale we condemn, as destroying the rider's hand and the horse's mouth ; all movements of the rein which passes through these rings, being dead, heavy, and uncomfortable ; neither does it look so well as the headstall martingale. When you use this, do not have an extra front to it as usually sent from the saddlers, but have the head passed through the front of the bridle, there is then no fear of its getting out of its place, and is not so cumbersome. This is decidedly the

best kind of martingale, not interfering with the rider's hand, or annoying the horse uselessly, only acting when required. The strap which passes from the noseband to the girth should be of such a length as to allow the free use of his head, and only sufficiently short to prevent his rider receiving a blow on the nose when the horse's head is thrown up; neither does this martingale interfere with the hand, and prevent your affording the usual assistance; a fault, which the ring ones possess, rather assisting in pulling the animal to the ground, than in saving him from falling. The headstall martingale, being the length mentioned, annoys the horse more when he throws up his head than when it is shorter, and therefore prevents his being guilty of such an unpleasant trick so often. Should you, however, find a plain leather nose-band in a short time not cure him of the trick, a plain plate of iron may be required; should this not succeed, you may have a jagged one, but try mild measures first, and they generally will succeed without annoyance and irritation to the animal.

For colts, sometimes the running rein is the best kind of martingale — this you buckle to the girth high or low as you may require, the rein then passes over a roller in the ring of the snaffle and back to the rider's hand. This, though faulty, is not so bad as the ring martingale; however, we will enumerate the most prominent of its defects, through the rein attached to the girths — when pulling at the horse, the saddle is drawn forward on his neck, and though this rein is not quite so much in the way when the horse stumbles, as the ring martingale, yet it does not afford any assistance to his rising. The martingale with a bit we have seen used but twice, but feel satisfied the old-fashioned bit with the reverse port would answer the purpose much better, and not be such an incumbrance to the horse. This martingale bit must also be an annoyance to the rider, for when he tells the horse to do one thing with the bit he uses, probably the horse is pressing upon the martingale either with more force than his rider is using, or perhaps can use with the bit, and therefore has no control over the horse. We feel convinced this is an instrument which no horseman would use, as it would be continually interfering with the hand and his management.

HARD MOUTHS.

This is one of the parts of horses most important to understand, whether we consider the elegance of the movements of the horse, or his comfort when in use, but what is of still greater importance, the **SAFETY**, the

ease, and comfort of the user of these animals ; yet, important as it is, very few horse proprietors think so small a portion of the animal worth the consideration necessary, or to become sufficiently acquainted with the management of the mouth, so as to use it with comfort to the animal. With men of right feeling, we should have thought the ease of every animal about them would occupy a little of their attention, more especially one so connected with their business and pleasure as the horse. But, for this noble quadruped himself, we find there is no real regard ; any fondness which can be lavished without trouble or cost, is all they have bestowed upon them. Show the owner that it will repay him to lay out a little money or extra trouble, and you will most probably succeed in persuading him to do as you require, nearly with the same indifference, whether the pain or comfort of the animal is sacrificed or not. If the owners of horses will attend to the subject considered in this article, they will find both their profit and advantage are materially concerned in attending to the mouths of their horses ; to have them good, and keep them good, may save the lives and limbs of the users as well as others, for it only is the bad and hard-mouthed horses which run away.

The popular term is here used, fearing by any other we might possibly not be understood, otherwise we contend there are no such things as hard-mouthed horses, and that the barefaced impudence of those fellows who ought to know better, and pretend there is a callous in the mouth, and so forth, ought to have these unblushing misrepresentations flogged out of them at the cart's tail. It is this untruth, told to those who are willing to believe others may know more of these parts than themselves, that has brought the host of punishing torturing instruments, foisted on the public as possessing magical powers, under the denomination of patent bits. At present, no one thinks of reforming these hard mouths and making them better. No, according to their doctrine, a callous is formed, and therefore the mouth has little feeling, and a bit must be got to make an impression.

In some book, upon horsemanship or bits, which we have read, but at present forget by whom, the author contends the bit only *stops the horse by acting as a lever.* He says, therefore, where the horse is heavy forward, that is the hard mouth, and, therefore, requires greater purchase (a sharper bit) ; this is too absurd to waste time upon, though many seem to act upon this principle. That the horse is a very high couraged animal, (few will doubt this,) makes him so fearless of danger and pain, that he may soon be taught to meet with familiarity that which,

until shown him he was to look on with unconcern, was his greatest dread. Even fire, he will learn to place his nose over, and where he has been taught this, we have seen him rode with his nose over a blaze, and there stand with his rider on his back till he was turned away, although he showed evident signs of being uncomfortable from the heat, such as throwing his nose up, and shaking his head ; on other occasions, when the fire has not been so fierce, he would stand in this posture as quiet as a horse of stone. He was a very lively playful horse. We have also seen horses that were flighty fretful brutes that would not bear the sight of the whip, and, when touched with it, then became uncomfortable and fidgety for days after ; yet, by judicious treatment, and being taught to look upon it, not (as hitherto) an instrument of punishment, but the agent of approval, he has learnt not to answer the whip at all as a correction, though he would show plain enough he did not like hard blows, by drawing himself up and wincing, but not mending his pace. These things prove the horse may be taught to bear punishment in a way plain enough for any person to see it. We know that this is the case with the horse's mouth. All colts' mouths are soft, yet, tender as they are at first, you cannot hold them with any bit, however severe, until they have been shown that when they resist the bit they are punished by that instrument, and that punishment ceases the moment it is obeyed. We also find that his mouth is so soft, even on first breaking, that he obeys mild bits as readily as severe ones, and that they inflict less injury upon him : (more of this when we come to Breaking).

The horse is also a cunning and, in our opinion, a sensible animal ; however, as those who know him least, only allow that he acts from instinct, we will be content by only claiming cunning for him from these, as that will answer the purpose. A good-mouthed horse (soft) gets a bad rider on his back ; bits, we have shown, are not chosen to suit the mouth ; studying to do this, the riders never dream of ; but to please the rider's opinion of a neat-looking cheek, any bit, mild or severe, is popped into the poor creature's mouth, and the rider must have his accustomed pull without reference to the poor brute's pain ; he is, therefore, made to go up to this bit, and pull as much as the rider pleases. The horse soon finds by a heavy even pull the mouth gets numbed from the circulation being stopped in the horse's mouth ; this want of feeling, therefore, is a comfort to him, and he soon learns to commence pulling to save pain ; with his mouth thus numbed, if alarmed, he runs away, not feeling the check of his owner, and not aware that he is not

alarmed also. Let any of our readers only consider this numbing of mouth for one instant, and if they have ever had a leg or an arm in a similar situation, and which is generally termed asleep, and they will soon understand a dead, a hard, or a callous mouth; or should they not have felt this, let them tie up one of these limbs so tight as to deprive it of circulation for a few minutes, and they will no *longer be ignorant of that which every man who uses a horse ought to know.*

That the skin, from this absurd pressure, if long continued, may get a little thicker, we can conceive; but that it becomes a perfect callous we deny; otherwise the mouth would not become so light again as to feel the slightest touch of the bit again within a fortnight, but such is the fact after years of hard pulling, and there is not a horse in Europe that, in the space of time named, we could not reclaim so far; and very few that would not in a few minutes answer our hand without stress being applied to the reins. The secret consists in doing as mentioned with colts; showing them *that they will be punished if they move the face from the bit*; and that when *they lean upon it they are punished in proportion to the pull.* To effect this, the circulation must be kept up. When we come to riding, this will be better explained; our only object here being to show the improper and cruel treatment to which horses are subjected from the absurd notions their owners form, and to show the stupidity of those who are too conceited to be ruled by those that know better.

A few days ago, a person was buying a hard-mouthed horse; the gentleman who accompanied him was giving him some very proper advice, and though the adviser was evidently not well acquainted with the mouth of the horse, he certainly knew more than the purchaser, who said he liked a horse to pull, and he would get a bit severe enough for him. Now here is the mischief; severe bits to punish the horse more and more are got, each of which he is taught to pull against, till, probably, he is punished beyond what his noble spirit will bear, when he breaks through all opposition.

STRING SNAFFLE.

Of all the barbarous inventions to torture an innocent, over-burdened, oppressed, ill-used, noble, generous animal, this is the most cruel. We neither know nor care who the inhuman monster may be that has the effrontery to try and palm such an instrument on the public, as likely to do any good to the horse, but will assert, be he who he may, he

knows nothing of the horse's mouth, and that, as a man, the invention is disgraceful to him. If a bit maker, it is abominable. However, as he is a mere blacksmith to the saddler, and rarely knows any thing about the horse, more than being told he is to fashion a piece of iron, and then polish it, after which it will be placed in the horse's mouth ; and seeing others are trying something to torture more than ordinary, he having always to deal in hard materials, may raise our pity for his want of feeling, when he constructs an instrument of torture on the vice system to cut off horses' tongues. Yes, reader, such is the bit now under notice, not with a pair of shears, that would not be severe enough, but by whipcord. And that if it is a saddler, his shop ought to be avoided by every person who has to do with horses, more than a house infected with the plague. We fear we shall not be able to describe this bit properly, neither can we give the name, having been so disgusted with it when sent to by a gentleman for our opinion. We will, however, give the best description of this torturing instrument in our power. The port of the snaffle is smooth and plain, with the under side hollowed out, bringing the sharp edges against the lower jaw ; along these sides are several holes bored through for the purpose of passing a piece of string or whipcord, which is to be placed round the horse's tongue, and over one of the ends of the snaffle which projects about three inches beyond the joint in the middle of the mouth. These, when the bit is opened, lie flat against the mouth-piece. This is the position they are intended to be placed when the tongue is fixed with the string, which, of course, must be tight, otherwise the animal would slip his tongue out of the noose. Upon the horse doing any thing to require the use of the bit, these two ends act as levers to tighten the cord still more upon the tongue. Can any thing be imagined more barbarous ? With a brutal fellow, of moderate strength, such a bit, acting, it must be recollect, on two sharp surfaces besides the cord, the tongue must be far easier cut out than with the cord attached to other bits ; yet such have been the results where there was none of this leverage and other assisting purchases. We believe Mr. Martin's act attached some punishment to the use of cord to the common bit ; at any rate the magistrates have on different occasions punished those who have resorted to this cruel practice. The users of this still more barbarous bit are not, therefore, likely to get off easier. At all events, it marks the user as no horseman, if not a hard-hearted brutal fellow into the bargain. Rely on it, there is no sharper snaffle required than a twisted one, and this, by abuse, may be rendered a cruelly punishing bit.

SEGUNDO BIT.

Perhaps no bit has ever had the same pains taken to induce the public to use it, as the one we are about to notice. We will therefore give it rather a longer notice than, perhaps, it may be thought to deserve. First of all, it is announced in an extract of most portentous dimensions, said to be taken from the "Journal des Connoisances Usuelles," which they also trumpet as "a work of standard authority in France." Now, from this extract, we shall take such portions as we think proper, commenting as we go on; first, premising the French are better theoreticians than practical men in all things; and that they are not horsemen is universally allowed. It is not, therefore, wonderful, that many of the most severe bits have had their origin in that country. We agree with the extract before mentioned, that they are "speaking of a very important part of the subject, namely, on the biting of horses; which, if properly attended to, will considerably enhance the goodness and value of those useful animals." Our article upon hard mouths should now be borne in mind by the reader. The extract next says, "The numerous accidents which are daily occurring for the want of a sufficient power in the riders and drivers to control their horses, afford abundant proofs of the inefficiency of the bits hitherto in use." They then conclude, from the variety of bits which have been invented, that their inefficiency has long been felt; but as these inventions are either the result of chance or of caprice, they have not answered the object which they professed to accomplish."

"Mr. Segundo, a skilful equestrian, who has devoted many years to the study of this branch of horsemanship, adopting a more enlightened method, at once made the anatomy of the horse's mouth his study, and the foundation of his new system."

Who can doubt, after all this, but the right bit is found? No person but this Mr. Segundo has been able to dissect a horse's mouth! Well, and what has he found by these dissections? That out of six different sized bits, with the mouth-piece placed higher or lower on the cheek, and the port being a little higher or lower, and the cheek longer or shorter, we say he pretends to have discovered that which had never been discovered before, and that one out of these six would most probably suit the horse. Really this "skilful equestrian" must have been asleep all his life not to have discovered that these alterations are as old as Blondville himself; though he certainly does not give us the

same old-fashioned cheek, neither does he give us the joint in the middle of the mouth-piece. Another very important discovery he has made, that the horse is generally better for a player attached to his bit. Without a horseman's hand, we grant, he is right; and even then it cannot do any harm. But let us ask one question:—When were players first introduced?—Is it within the last century? We doubt whether they are not much older. To hide the quackery of this bit as much as possible, he does not call it a player, but has the mouth-piece to turn at the cheeks, so that the port falls on the top or roof of the mouth, and the port is made broader, and not in the common shape; and here is quackery again—this is for the horse to put his tongue through. But we will not deprive them of the opportunity of trying to explain this themselves. “In Mr. Segundo's bits, on the contrary,” (speaking of former bits,) “the mouth-piece being made in strict conformity to the shape of the tongue, bars, palate, and lips, the first of these bars has full liberty, and is allowed to move without molestation, owing to the important improvement he has introduced of giving to the mouth-piece a partial rotary movement on the branches, by which means its position is always horizontal to the tongue; hence the cannons of the mouth-piece can never be prevented from acting on the bars.” Now, every one must be convinced this is great nonsense. In the first place, the port is not large enough to hold the horse's tongue conveniently; and, even were this of sufficient size, what is there to hold the tongue there, and what inducement has the horse to place it there? Taking their own account, he has every reason to put the tongue in the old place; and he will do so in spite of all the Segundo's in the world, particularly if this reasoning of theirs was good. However, not to come to too hasty a conclusion, we called at the seller's of this bit, not having seen *that realized in action* which their theory proclaimed. Now the explanation we there received shall be given. We were there told, the tongue of the horse was insensible! Is their own so? Reader, bite yours! If you feel no pain, then you may be led into their theory; but if it had no feeling, why, as the greatest punishment to the desperately unruly is whipcord used by the barbarian who is no horseman. And why would this be cruelty if the horse did not feel it? Absurd! There would be no more brutality in pinching that which had no feeling than there is in nailing on his shoes. The bars of the mouth, (the gums,) they say, are “exquisitely sensible, like our shins;” and this is their reason for having his tongue pass through the port, that this, being insensible, might not be placed to prevent the “sensible part” from receiving all the pressure, and, therefore, all the pain.

All through this work we have contended the horse is a sensible animal, and that opinion is daily confirmed ; if, therefore, his tongue was insensible, and the bars highly sensible, would he not place the tongue as a cushion over the bars to save them ? We contend that he would, and that this is the only position in which his tongue can remain for any length of time, and that when he plays with the player (port) it is on the upper side, by curling his tongue up, and not the under, bending his tongue that way. Now let us examine these nice dissections, and what it was that led to these wonderful conclusions ; did Mr. Segundo discover any nerve, not before known to anatomists, that he determined the (gums) bars were so sensible ? if so, why not state the fact ? but, until that, we deny it, and say the horse's gums have as little feeling as our own, and that it is only when in a state of great inflammation that they are highly sensible. If, however, by *bars* he means the upper part or roof of the mouth, he might have saved himself so much useless trouble, as the tongue of the horse is never placed in a position to prevent the full action of the port, and if this is the part he means to press, his port is useless. The next extract we shall take, observes, " This brings us to that part of the bit, which, in Mr. Segundo's system, bears the same analogy to the rest of his invention. Thus, to a very hard-mouthed horse, he gives a very strong curb-chain, the links of which are made angular, and to each of the others curb-chains, according to their respective qualities." Mark the remainder of the paragraph, " That which he has provided for very tender-mouthed horses, being a novelty no less ingenious than useful ; this is an elastic curb-chain, which will render the action of the bit milder, by yielding only gradually. Colts and horses that have a tender chin will be able to bear the bit pleasantly with this excellently contrived curb-chain."

To act as fairly as possible is the cause of our having given more lengthy extracts than, perhaps, may be thought necessary. Now we will begin with the first, and comment upon such as we have noticed. The first, it will be seen, attributes all accidents to the want of power in the users to control their horses, and concludes the bits are in fault. Now we contend the bits are not in fault, and even though they were, we do not see how his can remedy the defect. If he wants a severer bit, the Mameluke is far more so than his greatest punisher : had he seen some of these which have come under our observation, he would have felt perfectly satisfied that even the person who contended horses were only stopped by leverage, could not wish a better instrument for

the purpose. Archimedes said, give him but a place to rest his instruments, and he could lift the world: one of these Mameluke bits, on an increased size, might effect the purpose, therefore all doubt as to bits not being severe enough is set at rest. A gentleman well known as a superior and scientific horseman, of the name of Scott, before he became so well acquainted with the management of the horse, had a runaway horse which it was allowed no person could hold with any bit. He procured one of these Mamelukes of rather the larger size, from what we recollect of it we should imagine the port rose full three inches in the mouth above the mouth-piece, (to these bits a ring is attached for the lower jaw instead of the common curb;) the ring is fixed at the top of the port, and the checks were about a foot long. This bit the horse could not face at all. When he afterwards became the accomplished equestrian, which he universally was allowed to be, he had this bit hung in the stable as a memento of folly, ignorance, and brutality. That any persons should suppose out of the immense number of bits which have been made and invented during the many years which horses have been in use, that none are severe enough, is rather astonishing, when we consider the number of years that it was considered the horse could only be governed by brute force, violence, and cruelty. If reflecting upon this does not satisfy them, then let them examine some of the old-fashioned bits, long out of use, from their punishing qualities and extreme cruelty. Then, let us ask, had cruel bits the advantages which some of the modern bit patentees would wish us to believe, would they be laid aside? Had they not been proved worse than useless, would they not still have been considered proper bits? Certainly they would, as no one could have discovered they were useless, unless they had proved injurious also. At one time we were great advocates for severe bits when compared with the horse's mouth. From our hand being light, we imagined every one would use the horse's mouth with the requisite degree of gentleness also; observation, however, soon taught us differently. The first hint of our labouring under a mistake which we received, was from a mare which a Lieut. C—— of the Second Life Guards used to ride; with the regiment she wore the usual severe bit like the troop horses, and was easily restrained with it; with a curb less severe than this, she used, whenever an opportunity occurred, to run away; she was, therefore, always rode in a full-mouthed plain snaffle when off duty, and was as light mouthed as need be. She was put into harness, in which she went quietly for some time, while the snaffle was used: being over per-

suaded by a friend one day to try her in a moderate curb, she became unruly, threw them both out, and her owner's leg was broken. After this she was again driven in a snaffle, and no accident ever occurred. This, certainly, rather shook our faith as to the general propriety of the too common use of sharp bits; but tread upon our own toes, and we can always feel; such an instance soon occurred. We used to drive an entire horse and a mare together in a phaeton; the mare was remarkably light-mouthed, and was driven with an arched-mouthed bit, the reins at the cheek; the horse had a port-mouthed bit, and was driven a little lower down. One day, going out in a hurry, we did not look round to see if the harness was as it ought to be, but jumped in; the groom had no sooner left their heads than the mare reared, plunged, and bolted, and though the groom was so close as to be immediately at their heads, they had proceeded in this ungovernable way some distance before our united efforts stopped them, when this was effected we found the mare's mouth bleeding violently. Wishing to ascertain the cause, we opened it, when we found the tongue of the poor creature cut right through, at least one-fourth of its whole width across. We had the bits changed, when they went as well and gently as ever. This led to a number of experiments, from which we found accidents were less likely to follow from the use of *too mild* rather than those bits which were *too severe*, particularly with those who are not skilful horsemen.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

R. Y. We will assist him as requested in the choice of a bit, if he will send a note to the office, saying when he will call there with the horse.

“Novice” should consult our third number.

E. W. A black horse, with a brown muzzle, is called a brown.

The number of letters respecting Chanters being more numerous than the last, we have only to observe, their remedy has already been pointed out in former numbers; therefore, when they get caught by the “Sharks,” they have only themselves to blame.

Had we known of the bits having been changed, we could easily have prevented the consequences by using the severe bit mildly, and the other sharper, and thus have kept them under subjection; but, imagining the mare was not answering her usual bit properly, we used the bit violently, therefore increased the evil. These two occurrences, together with the result of the experiments, led us to notice the various accidents which have occurred from horses, and the investigation has proved that the majority, beyond calculation, have arisen from the injudicious use of sharp bits. We have now shown that bits are not only severe enough, but too much so when improperly applied; we have also shown that the plain snaffle is a sufficiently mild bit; the next is the curb-bit without any port; then according to the degree required you can alter the height and width of the port, and lengthen or shorten the cheek of the bit, either above the port or below the port, all of which differences are kept ready-made. To the horse that throws his nose in the air apply the reverse port. To throw the nose out use snaffle or bridoon.

Our own bridle, which we have once or twice had occasion to refer to, may be the mildest of all, by using the rein attached to the nose-band, and, with such a bridle, you preserve the mouth good; or, if bad, it will soon become sufficiently soft, light, and pleasant; see page 25. Should a severer bit than the common curb be required, and not the Mameluke or reverse port, (for the latter may be made a dreadful punisher,) the Chifney is an admirable bit, whether we regard it for its severity when required to be thus used, or the assistance it affords the horseman in recovering a bad mouth, or the agreeable lightness and freedom with which it acts; as well as that when properly used, the elasticity and play which it affords, is pleasant to the horse. The inventor of this bit deserves the thanks of all horsemen and their horses too, where it is properly used. Probably our praise may lead to an abuse of this bit by its indiscriminate use, unless we at the same time give a necessary caution, that it is one of the worst of bits when not properly used, and by its severity dangerous to bad horsemen.

Having described the origin of most of the bits which we have had occasion to mention, this of Chifney's shall also be traced to its source. It is a great improvement on the old Turkish bit, the latter having the same joint as Chifney's, but not the continuation of the cheek to take the curb: this chain being placed on two projections behind the joint and upon it, attached to the lower part of the cheek. The Pelham, taken from Blondville, has a snaffle mouth, and a curb

No. 20.

cheek. This is a bit we do not much admire, horses generally riding dead in hand with it; however, as it is mild in its action for those who are not horsemen, and fancy they must have a curb, this answers their purpose.

The Hanoverian bit ought not to be used indiscriminately with one rein; for some persons and some horses this is a good bit; it is severe when improperly used; otherwise, mild, easy, and pleasant in its action.

These bits are mentioned to show that the fault is not with the bits, but that the accidents are occasioned by other causes. In fact, we have had an admission from the seller of the Segundo bits; there are bits sufficiently mild, for when we asked to see the elastic curb-chain, which our readers will remember they describe as "being a novelty no less ingenious than useful," instead of showing one, they had the candour to observe, *they were found not to answer*. "Another of the improvements introduced by Mr. Segundo is, that of a bit with folding branches, which, with the aid of his moving mouth-piece, allows a horse to feed while bridled with perfect ease; this is chiefly intended for the cavalry." Now, folding branches we have seen upon bits long before we ever saw or heard of his; the bit must have been half a century old. That this Mr. Segundo means well, we have no reason to doubt. We also think he may probably fancy his bit has all the properties he thinks proper to claim for it. The only novelty we see in it is, the moving mouth-piece, and in this we see no advantage; we have seen the bit in use, and have tried it; we prefer other bits, and are satisfied that his will not effect that which he professes, without that knowledge which will enable the possessor to procure other bits to do at least equally as well, at less than one-third of the expense. "The object of these bits is to bring all descriptions of defective horses to the same bearing upon the bit as the good-mouthed"—to assist this, he classes them into six.—"Runaway horses, or very hard-mouthed—hard-mouthed, or horses bearing heavily on the bit—good-mouthed horses—very tender-mouthed horses—star-gazers, or horses that carry their heads too high—borers, or horses that place their heads close to their chests." Now there were plenty of bits to answer all these purposes equally well long ago. The difficulty ever was, and still will be, to suit the rider's hand with the horse's mouth; and this it is impossible to do by his description, as we think we have shown tolerably plainly in this article, and the one on hard mouths. However, we have still more to say when we treat on riding.

The "angular" curb-chain is not, in severity, an equivalent to the

old-fashioned bar of steel, if it is more than equal to some of the single curbs. If, however, all that is said of this Segundo's bit be admitted correct, what have our veterinary surgeons been about? are you not ashamed of yourselves? Mr. Professor, and Mr. Deputy, what have you been about not to find out the cause of all the accidents, when it came within the range of your studies? do you not blush for yourselves and pupils, that none of you have discovered the insensibility of the tongue, and the extreme delicacy of feeling evinced in the gums? However, we believe seriously Mr. Segundo may have meant well; we are the more inclined to think so. As he does not resort to severity except where he thinks it necessary. As to what a bit-maker's idea upon the subject is, we care not: we have given our opinion of their knowledge of horses and their mouths, when noticing the tongue-destroying snaffle, and with the knowledge they possess, that which pays them best is that which they will prefer selling, and of course that to which a patent (an exclusive right for themselves) is attached; whatever that bit may be, the sellers of them will mostly recommend; the seller of this, however, we will do the justice to say, did not profess a great deal for it when we saw him. We also see it states in this extract that "His Majesty, George the Fourth, gave the author permission to dedicate his work on the subject of his invention to him," and then are added several foreign names, as approvers of the bit. This bit, by the late king having given the permission named, cannot be very new, and were it found to do that which it professes, long before this their use must have been general. But how can any bit accomplish this? The fact is, a horseman can make almost any bit answer his purpose, and rather prefers moderately sharp bits to the extremely mild, knowing he can use them as required, without pain or annoyance to the animal. The bad horsemen have different degrees of pull, which every horse they use must bear: some will pull with all their might; their pull, therefore, will depend on the strength of each rider; others will not even feel the horse's mouth, but leave the reins so slack as to be useless, except when they want to stop him. Now, how can any bit be found to answer all these purposes, or the horses be suited to their riders without seeing both, and the bits they generally ride with? We will add a few more words to those which we have used before on sharp bits. Horses are hardly ever known to run away when the groom has them out at exercise with only a plain snaffle, or a curb-bit without the curb. How is this? or, if sharp bits are necessary, how is it we find children able to govern the same horse

with the very bridle that a powerful man cannot? Yet, such is the fact, mere *boys and quite CHILDREN* can hold *the same horse with the same* bit that the powerful man has to exert all his strength with, and then cannot always succeed. The bits, we again assert, *are superabundant for all purposes*; to **APPLY THEM PROPERLY IS THE SECRET**, and this can only be done by a master of the subject. One more observation we must make on the assertion of Mr. Segundo, that the horse's tongue, when in its usual place, prevents the action of the bit upon the bars (gums) by covering them; let any person examine the horse's mouth, or any mouth, and they will never find the tongue covering these parts at all; if we are not mistaken in this, which we are confident we are not, and which any one may soon convince themselves by only opening the horse's mouth; this alone upsets all his theory, independent of his mistake regarding the insensibility of the tongue. However, as these bits are not more cruel than others, we do not wish to deter those from trying them who feel any inclination; our only object is to prevent our readers from being led into error: this is only to be effected by showing the real qualities of the different bits which we have had occasion to mention.

Misleading the timid, and those who are not horsemen, as to the talismanic qualities of bits, may be the occasion of much mischief. We have known it the occasion of serious accidents, even loss of life has been the result; one melancholy instance we will relate, as the timid are apt to imagine if they have bits sufficiently severe to restrain the horse from running away, all other purposes may be effected by the same punishment. This, however, is an error we have plainly shown; many horses being made to run away by this very punishment which was intended to restrain them, and should they be held, even worse consequences have followed, as in the following instance:—A gentleman who rode a pony in the country, and whose only fear was that the animal should run away, to prevent this dreadful evil, rode him in a sharp curb, with which he taught the poor beast to shy as in pages 9, 10, and 25.—Often had he been entreated to use a milder bit, and told one day some serious accident would be the result of his persevering with the one he had. One morning, being met on his pony, and complaining of his shying more than ever, he was persuaded to go and order a plain snaffle, about three inches round the mouth-piece, so that he might hang on by the bridle without punishing the horse; he had not left the saddler's, where he had given the order, more than two minutes, when the pony turned round suddenly, (his usual mode of

shying,) off went his rider, who was killed on the spot. The pony was ridden for years after with the snaffle which his late unfortunate master had just ordered, and soon completely left off shying. Almost as soon as it was put on, a sensible diminution in the severity of his movements, when alarmed, took place. Were we to enumerate the list of evils which we have known result from the injudicious use of sharp bits, we should fill a volume.

For those who are seekers after a bit to answer equally well with a bad as a good horseman, fruitless as we consider the search, still will we try, thus much will we tell them. From morbid anatomy, they can derive little assistance, and that these dissections are only resorted to by anatomists, to discover that which cannot be seen in the living animal. Surgeons do not cut up a dead man to see if he has any feeling, but to ascertain the cause of it, and they well know where there is most nerve there is most feeling. Veterinary Surgeons perform their morbid operations for the same purpose, and they, with all the laudable anxiety of a rising profession, have neither discovered any reason for the tongue of the horse being insensible, or the gums, more so than in the human subject. Let us also ask why we should have to resort to dissecting the dead, to ascertain that which the living can much easier inform us ; besides, we know that morbid bodies put on different appearances from living ones, and there is not a professional man on earth that would not, were that which he wanted to discover visible in the animals when living, prefer an animated to a morbid examination. In making a bit, certainly let the ease of the horse be studied, so that he shall not be annoyed by that instrument unnecessarily, but to keep fitting it to living horses' mouths, as we proved is practically illustrating, as the horse will show us how he feels on the bits being put in various positions. But, to suit a dead horse with a bit is no better than theory, which is ever likely to be erroneous. We will instance the tongue, which, in a bit we have been treating of, has a port, as we are told, to fit it ; now, if this fits one morbid tongue, it might not have fitted that tongue while living ; and granting that it did, have not various horses, even of the same size, larger and smaller tongues ? therefore, we may reasonably suppose that different sized horses would also have their tongues vary ; now these bits are not fitted in reference to size, but the degree of hardness and softness of the mouths ; now, every one must be aware a little horse may have a hard mouth, therefore, it must be presumed, a smaller tongue, and a large horse a soft mouth and a larger tongue ; yet is the same port to fit both. Now we con-

tend that the port is not large enough to hold any horse's tongue, and that very shape, with the two projections coming under it, would be quite sufficient to make him keep his tongue out of it. The horse will not allow any foreign body to be under the tongue, all grooms know well, for which reason, when they want to make the horse champ or move his tongue about, for instance, when being bled, they put their finger under the tongue, when his efforts to get the finger from its situation is the cause of his movements. *Ask also one of these grooms whether they ever found the horse's tongue so wide as to cover the gums just at that place WHERE THE BIT RESTS in his mouth?* Their reply will be, Never. We remember reading in some work, of a foreign gentleman describing this country and its inhabitants to his sister: amongst other observations on our language, he says, we have one very expressive word, "Humbug," the full meaning of which he cannot find words in his native tongue to express. Foreigners, we presume, however, fully understand the system, if not the word itself, otherwise we should not have had so much ado about nothing.

Having completed the first portion of our work upon the horse, we have to request the indulgence of our readers till September, when the second volume shall make its appearance; our reason for closing the first or present number where we have is, that our future observations on the horse will be so connected with the out-door treatment of the animal in his use, breaking, horsemanship, and rearing, that we think it better to form them into distinct volumes. We are convinced that the horse sufficiently known, and properly used, is not injured by the slightest touch, and that he is not to be rendered unsound by *one day's use*. This volume has, however, proved so much of our opinion, that perhaps our readers will be more gratified by our telling our future intentions. We shall give so much of the superficial anatomy of the horse as all horsemen ought to be acquainted with, to enable them to select the horse required for their purpose, and the style of management necessary to keep each class of horse sound and upon their legs, not resorting to more technicalities than we have hitherto made use of, but give only such parts as are requisite, in a plain, easy, and familiar way, so that you need not start, reader, at the observation, considering this work only intended, in future, for professional men; for, on external anatomy, you will still find "The Horse" the same easy actioned animal which he has hitherto been, neither shying, nor starting himself or his readers. That there are very many and elaborate works upon horsemanship we willingly allow, but not one meeting our ideas, as one

horse requires different management, quite opposite to that of another, even of the same breed or family ; and this depends on the animal's formation. External anatomy is easily understood, and will enable the owner, at one glance, to adapt his management to the animal, so as to render that horse efficient which with any owner not versed in this science would be a worthless brute. We contend there are not, by an immense majority, so many bad horses as are represented, and that with proper skill and management, all are good in their places. It is from not accommodating the hand or bit to the peculiar make and temperament of the horse that so many of them become unsound and useless long before their time. The want of a work to correct this mismanagement, and thus render the horse more useful, by teaching those who have made up their minds only to use horses as mechanical engines, void of feeling and of tempers, expecting all accommodation from them, and not to yield any in return to the horse best adapted to their purpose, and those who are of a more accommodating, if we may not use the term rational disposition, how to use each horse, so as to get the easiest action, the freest paces, and the most work ; also which is the best horse for each purpose, whether it is for the parade, pleasure, or work, that he is required : but as we are closing a first volume, it may seem too like a prospectus to a second to enter into further particulars of that which is to come. We will therefore observe, that the work will be found very different from all others which have appeared, and we trust will be found far more useful, still adhering to our opinions of saving our worthy trusty favourite from cruelty ; being convinced by proper treatment severity is never required : we also trust such proofs as we shall produce will bring conviction to the greatest sceptic. Horsemen, we have been told, by one of our own correspondents, never read books upon the management of horses ; had he said, those who imagine themselves horsemen, he would have been much more correct. Horsemen are ever most eager in seeking such publications ; and we feel obliged to many of the first in the country for the very flattering proofs they have given of their approval of this first volume of "The Horse." Were it not from this, and the cordial and almost universal approval of the Press, we might have feared saying so much, for our hobby would appear like egotism ; but presume strangers are not prone to praise undeservedly ; and if such is the case, we may truly feel obliged for their approval, which has been so general, that with the exception of one or two, every journal which devotes a portion of its pages to criticism, whether daily or weekly,

has either reviewed "The Horse" most flatteringly, or taken copious extracts from it; many of them both: neither has one detracting line been written. The Morning Herald, as well as some of the leading evening papers, devoted more than one whole column of its valuable pages to an extract. It may appear invidious to mention any one paper in particular, where all have been so liberal, but these being the longest extracts made at any one time, besides which we have been informed by some gentlemen connected with the literary world, and to whom the editorship of this work has introduced us, that they never knew an extract of similar length of any work, particularly at such a period of the year, in any of the journals alluded to, as they were kind enough to give this unpretending little "Horse."

The fact we will mention as a flattering proof of their opinion of "The Horse," as well as to show the integrity of those Papers; several gentlemen connected with literary pursuits, waited upon our Publisher and ourselves to inquire whether we had any particular interest with those journals, or what was the inducement. We knew of none; neither the Publisher nor any one connected with this work are in the least acquainted with any one connected with those journals, either directly or indirectly. We were as much surprised as any other person on being informed of this flattering and liberal approval of our endeavours to assist our favourite quadruped, and all connected with him. So numerous and general have the extracts been, that one gentleman, a regular subscriber to "The Horse," after expressing his general approval, said he only had one fault to find with it, which was, it copied nearly all the contents from the different newspapers; the fact was the reverse, as he would have seen, had he observed more closely, that although by reading each extract in the different papers he got through nearly the whole of many of the numbers, yet they were all duly acknowledged as extracts, and therefore an acknowledgment of their approval. Plagiarism not being one of "The Horse's" faults, we think the work entitled to this vindication.

Here we must express our sorrow that for the present we cannot assist him further, but other engagements so fully occupy our time till September, that we find it impossible to bring out weekly papers; had we studied our own convenience, we should have deferred finishing this volume until that period; this, however, we considered would be acting unfairly towards our subscribers. We hope this will be received as a sufficient apology for the lateness and irregularity in the publication of the few last numbers.

THE CRITERION COACH.

The melancholy and fatal accident which occurred with this coach the other day, induces us to take this opportunity of suggesting a plan to prevent the recurrence of such a catastrophe. The idea first presented itself to us some years ago; since which more than one or two accidents have occurred from defective poles. We, therefore, take this opportunity of recommending that a rod of iron, similar to that used for invisible fences, be passed through the whole length of the pole. At one end, let it be firmly riveted to a plate of iron, the size of the end of the pole; at the other extremity, let an iron plate or washer of the same size be put on, and screwed up firmly with a nut. The extra weight, which this would occasion, is not worth consideration, and would be a complete security; for, granting that to a defective pole it did not afford the required strength, yet it would prevent the broken part from parting, and enable the coachman, by a little caution and judgment, to draw up his horses before any thing serious occurred; and, even a broken pole, tightly drawn up by the nut, if broken short across, would be firm enough to reach the next inn. Where this plan is not adopted, the pole should be used some time before it is painted, as in this state all flaws are much more readily discovered. Never have one with a knot, a shake, or any other defect, however trifling it may appear.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Any correspondent wishing any question answered, has only to address the Editor, at the Publisher's, saying where they wish it forwarded, when it shall be punctually attended to.

G. R. will find his question answered in former numbers.

B. L. cannot return the horse too quickly.

S. H. refer to Observations on Food.

K. J. will find it does not make five pounds difference in the price

of the horse, when selling by auction, whether he gives a warranty or not ; we also agree with him it is not worth while to stand the chance of "the vexations which a warranty subjects the warrantee to for a trifle."

ERRATA.

Page 298, line 16, for "move the face from the bit," read *more than face the bit.*

— 299, line 16, for "the point," read *the front.*

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS ON THIS SUBJECT.

“‘The Horse.’ This weekly periodical, in its second and third monthly parts, more than realizes the promise its earliest number gave of a very extended utility, and is too pre-eminently useful to mankind for this cheap, but spirited and philanthropic little work to meet with either indifference or neglect at the hands of the public. The masterly manner in which all that relates to management is treated, the changes it, with so much talent, labours to effect in favour of humanity and fair dealing, together with its undeniable practical utility to a large class of society, will, we are convinced, ensure for it an encouragement and success, to which its many merits so richly entitle it.”—*Gloucestershire Chronicle*.

“‘The Horse.’ The expositions contained in this publication of the tricks and knavery of dealers, stable-keepers, chaunters, grooms, and stable-men of all descriptions, are most useful, and should be read by all interested in the sale, keep, or purchase of the noble animal in question.”—*Satirist*, May 4, 1834.

“An evident improvement upon the preceding number. There is an excellent portrait of the Darley Arabian, fairly worth the shilling which is the charge of the publication.”—*Town*, April 6.

“It supplies some excellent hints to ordinary purchasers of horses, how to avoid being taken in by chaunters and screw-dealers. At the same time it tells the young blood of our aristocracy, that the ‘nurses’ with whom they are too often, as a precaution, accompanied to the stables of the horse-dealers, are frequently the worst allies they can resort to. The article headed, ‘Screw-dealers and dealers generally,’ ought to place this magazine in the hands of every horse-purchaser and horse-dealer in the kingdom.”—*Morning Advertiser*, March 29.

“‘The Horse.’ The little pamphlet entitled ‘The Horse,’ we have much pleasure to see, keeps on its course; and we have reason to think is still working the round of the press at a winning rate. To those who desire a greater insight into stable business, but, above all, to guard against deceit and knavery of the town, will find it worth their while to spend a shilling once a month, and to save pounds a year, (or it will be their own fault else,) by taking in this clever periodical, ‘The Horse.’ We make no extracts, a Morning Paper of this week having most amply done justice to its contents.”—*New Dispatch*, April 6.

“‘The Horse,’ No. 1, is the first of a series of weekly papers on every subject connected with that noble animal; training, purchase, treatment, &c., &c., &c. If we may judge from the specimen, it will be very useful; and the writer seems to be (riding) master of his subject.”—*Literary Gazette*, Feb. 8.

Opinions of the Press.

“The first monthly part of a very useful publication, entitled ‘The Horse,’ has just been completed. It is a cheap and extremely useful little work for all those who ‘have to do with horse-flesh,’ at least in a living state.”—*Bell’s Life in London, Feb. 23.*

“‘The Horse,’ a new weekly and monthly publication, has lately appeared. It gives information as to the way in which the noble animal, whose name it assumes, is to be managed, where purchased, and so forth. It touches too upon the tricks of the dealers. These, followed up with a determined hand, would make ‘The Horse’ a *stable* publication, and almost worth as much to *Hamlet*, the publisher, as (the question, ‘To be, or not to be,’ well decided,) *Richard* offered to give for one.”—*Sunday Times, March 9, 1834.*

“We have another monthly number of this little work, which, we understand, is most successful. All we shall say is, that it deserves to be so.”—*Satirist, April 6.*

“‘The Horse.’—‘A kingdom for a horse,’ is the usual exclamation ; but here we have one, and an excellent good ‘Horse’ too, for threepence, at Temple-bar. Reading this work is like listening to a steady and experienced old groom laying down the law to the various little stable jockies around him.”—*Bell’s Weekly Magazine, Feb. 15.*

“We have read enough of it to be able to assert that no person who keeps a horse, either for work or pleasure, ought to be without it.”—*Town, March 2.*

“‘The Horse.’ The discriminating tact with which the work is edited speaks highly in favour of the experience of the author, and his knowledge of the noble animal treated of. He enters fully into the management of the stable, and gives many hints of great use to those who keep horses, and desire to preserve them in health and strength.”—*Satirist, March 9.*

“It is evident he is an old experienced hand, and many of the remarks are shrewd and good. It cannot fail to embody useful hints that old and young may profit by ; it is neatly got up, the style is easy, and the price moderate. We wish it success.”—*New Dispatch, Feb. 2.*

“‘The Horse.’—The first monthly part of this little work has just reached us. The information it contains respecting this useful animal, ought to be in the possession of every horse-dealer or Veterinary Surgeon throughout the kingdom. The work is neatly got up, and at the low price of One Shilling.”—*Bell’s Literary Intelligence, March 1.*

“‘The Horse.’ A little tract, under the above somewhat curious title, has lately appeared. It is a treatise on the properties, good and bad, of that useful animal ; and the writer has entered largely into the minutia and management of the stable. We wish it success : towards which, the writer’s tact— together with the aid and contributions of others, experienced as himself— will, no doubt, very much contribute.—*Bell’s Literary Intelligence, Feb. 8.*

See also *Morning Herald, March 22, Farmer’s Journal, &c. &c.*

